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Gloucester Arcade

THE WEATHER: Cloudy and cool with some patches of drizzle at first. Fair periods later.

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK: ONE FOR 20 OFFER FOR MERCANTILE SHARES

How Strong Is The Church Of Rome?

How powerful are the Roman Catholics becoming in Britain? Could the day arrive when Mass will again be said in Westminster Abbey?

THESE are questions brought sharply into focus as a new Pope takes over the spiritual leadership of 450 million Christians.

Today one person in ten in Britain is a Roman Catholic.

WHAT impact have they on the rest of the nation?

WHAT influence does the Roman Catholic community exert in business, politics, the arts, and entertainment?

WHAT is the truth about the converts and WHO are the celebrities who have found in the Roman Catholic Church the answer to their problems?

A China Mail writer has been investigating the going life of Britain and he has chosen the Roman Catholics as the subject of his first article in a fascinating new series, *THE FAITHS BY WHICH WE LIVE*. In it he will examine the beliefs, practices, finances, and personalities of the great religious communities.

This important study by Bernard Harris begins in Saturday's China Mail.

Alternative Of 44 Shillings Per Share Payment

A new step in the proposed merger of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Mercantile Bank was announced in Hongkong and London today.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank issued the following statement:

Mrs Roosevelt Denies She Practises Yoga

New York, Dec. 23. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt today denied a report that she practised yoga when she lived in the White House. She admitted, however, that she used to be able to stand on her head.

Mrs. Roosevelt, in her *McCall's* magazine column, "If you ask me," replied to a letter asking if it was true, as novelist Fannie Hurst said in her autobiography, that she performed a yoga exercise that involved standing on her head while she was First Lady.

"I am afraid that Miss Hurst has exaggerated slightly," Mrs. Roosevelt replied. "I did, and can do, exercises every morning, but I did not know they were called yoga exercises."

"Certainly not for a long time have I attempted to stand on my head, though there was a time in my life when I could accomplish this feat!"—U.P.I.

The Boards of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Mercantile Bank Limited announce that agreement has now been reached in principle, subject to formal contract, under which The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will make an offer to the shareholders of Mercantile Bank Ltd to acquire their shares in exchange for new shares of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to be issued, credited as fully paid on the basis of one new share of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for every 20 shares (ex-dividend) of Mercantile Bank Ltd.

Not Rank

The new shares of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will not rank for the final dividend for 1958, but thereafter will rank pari passu with the existing shares.

Such new shares will be registered on the London register. The directors of Mercantile Bank Ltd have agreed to recommend this offer for acceptance.

In addition, for the benefit of those who might feel unable to become shareholders of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the directors of Mercantile Bank Ltd are to be given the right to take cash at the rate of 44 shillings per share (ex-dividend) of Mercantile Bank Ltd.

The Offer

The offer will be conditional (inter alia) upon acceptance in respect of 90% (or such lesser percentage as The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank may decide) of the shares of Mercantile Bank Limited other than those already held by The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the creation of the new shares of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank referred to above, and permission to deal in and quotation for such shares being granted by the council of the Stock Exchange, London.

If the offer is successful, without committing the board of The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank with regard to its future policy, it is the intention to retain the identity of Mercantile Bank Ltd with its Head Office and board in London.

The Choice

TWO thousand years ago, the mighty Roman Empire stretched from Britain to Britain. Never had the ancient world known so much power invested in a single state. The proud legions of Rome marched upon well laid roads that stretched across continents. Everywhere men bowed before the Eagles of Rome. All submitted to her; all acknowledged her might; the Triumphs of Rome saw all the treasures of the world hauled through Roman Streets while barbarian slaves stared in wonder at her majestic buildings. Her civil law was the law of the world; her bloodstained Circus the wonder and the fear of all men.

At that moment, at the zenith of Roman might, a child was born at Bethlehem. It seemed of no consequence. The earth did not move in its orbit. We are told that to certain Syrian shepherds, angels appeared. There is talk also of certain wise men who visited the new-born child. But from that moment, the material

THE editor and staff of the China Mail wish all readers a happy Christmas.

There will be no China Mail tomorrow or on Boxing Day but the weekend China Mail packed with features and pictures and a roundup of the holiday news will appear at the usual time on Saturday morning.

The SCM Post will be published tomorrow but not on Boxing Day or Saturday. The Sunday Post-Herald will be published as usual.

Inside on page 2 today, film critic Anthony Fuller has reviewed the films being shown in Hongkong over the holidays. There is also a special notice about television programmes.

DISPUTE OVER HOW LONG IS AN INCH NEAR END

London, Dec. 23. A long-standing factual difference of opinion between the United States and Britain, all over five millionths of an inch, is on its way towards a settlement.

One possible result of that settlement is that the British inch may become five millionths longer.

It is a 20-year-old question raised before the war when it was officially recommended that something should be done to make American and British inches the same length.

More recently, the Royal Society, the Board of Trade and Commonwealth officials have taken the problem up.

DISPARITY

The disparity arises because the American inch is tied to the metric system, while the British inch, by Act of Parliament, is based on the Imperial Yard.

Today a spokesman at the national physical laboratory said: "While the matter is still under discussion, there is a move towards relating the British and American inches, but the final details are not settled."

Some reports from the United States suggest this Anglo-American difference will be settled by an announcement to be made on New Year's Day.

Comment Of The Day

power of Rome began to decline. With the passing years, there came the time when even the proud Caesar bowed before Christ the Lord who was born in Bethlehem. Now the choice is before the world again. A greater empire than Caesar ever knew dismiles Bethlehem as a myth, and the God child as a fabrication.

THE real tragedy is that those who claim to adhere to Bethlehem have surrendered part at a time, the shepherds crooked, the manger the Angel Choir, the belief that love

NOAH WAS AN ALBINO DOCTOR SAYS

London, Dec. 24. Noah, who built the ark during the biblical flood was an albino with white hair, pink eyes and skin like snow, a British doctor suggested today.

Dr Arnold Sorsby, research professor in Ophthalmology at the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal Eye Hospital, quoted from the little known books of the Apocrypha.

Writing in the British Medical Journal, Dr Sorsby said it could be that Noah's father and mother were either brother and sister or cousins. Giving a detailed account of Noah's birth from the book of Enoch, Dr Sorsby described how Lamech—Enoch's grandson—was the father of a child—the flesh of which was white as snow and red as a rose; the hair of whose head was white like wool and long; and whose eyes were beautiful. When he opened them he illuminated all the house like the sun; the house abounded with light.

Married Sister

Dr Sorsby quoted from one of the Dead Sea scrolls which seemed, he said, to tell the story of Lamech's doubts as to whether the child was his wife. "In the light of this fragment the account of Noah's appearance at birth as given in the book of Enoch is clearly not that of a miraculous child but of an albino," Dr Sorsby said.

He also quoted interpreters of the scroll as saying that Lamech married his sister. They based this conclusion on the fact that Lamech was called "brother" by his wife. "If this were so, and such relationship was not particularly unusual in primitive societies... Noah becomes the offspring of an extreme type of consanguineous marriage, and his albinism would illustrate not only the antiquity of the tradition but also that the first recorded case showed parental consanguinity," he added.

SHIP'S ENGINE ROOM GUTTED

Tokyo, Dec. 23. A 7,275-ton British freighter, English Prince, with 36 crewmen on board en route for Kobe from Shanghai, was on fire this afternoon, the Japanese coast-guard reported.

The fire was brought under control after it had gutted the engine room.—Reuter.

came down at Christmas. Now the world is at the crossroads again. It is either Bethlehem or materialism. It cannot be both. And whichever it is, men will have to face the issue boldly.

If we are merely the inhabitants of a cooling dying planet, and if we are but a smear on the slide of some observing scientist, then let that be our faith, and let us take on the nature of a tiger and fight within this sphere of hatred. But if we believe God came to Bethlehem for our sake, as the carols we shall sing this Christmas claim, then let us adjust our lives according to our belief.

Christmas Water Supply Bonus

The Water Authority today announced a Christmas bonus supply.

Tomorrow the Colony will have water continuously from 8 am to midnight.

The Colony will also get a full supply over the New Year holiday.

The water will be turned on at 4.30 p.m. on December 31 and will continue until midnight the following day, January 1.

Queen Joins In Carols With Villagers

Sandringham, Dec. 23. Queen Elizabeth and other members of the British Royal family tonight joined a party of villagers from nearby Sandringham in carols at the Royal home here.

The carollers, 22 of them, had been outside Sandringham house singing "Christmas Awake" when they were invited in by Captain the Lord Plunket, the Queen's Equerry.

They were shown into a drawing room, where seated in a semi-circle, were the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, the Duchess of Kent—the Queen's aunt—and Princess Alexandra, the Duchess of Kent's daughter.

There they sang three more carols, with the Royal family joining in. Then the Queen asked "The First Noel."—Reuter.

DRIZZLE & COOL WEATHER FOR XMAS

Christmas holiday weather is expected to be dull, drizzly and cool.

The Royal Observatory reported this morning that between 3 a.m. and 10 a.m. today, 12 of an inch of rain was recorded.

Forecasting the holiday weather, they do not expect much improvement. The weather will tend to be slightly cooler over the next few days.

Christmas morning should be cloudy and drizzly, with a possibility of the dull weather staying around in the afternoon.

Christmas Tussle

Dallas, Dec. 23. Mr. Troy Hill has a Yuletide problem. He is expecting 30 guests for Christmas dinner and has a 30-pound turkey in his refrigerator, but the handle broke off the door two days ago—and he is still tugging to get at the bird.—Reuter.

Ike's Xmas Message To World

Washington, Dec. 23. President Eisenhower in his annual Christmas message to the world gave his "solemn word" today that the United States would never use its strength to break the peace.

The President delivered his Christmas message of peace from a football field, opposite the White House, shortly before lighting the nation's Christmas tree at dusk.

The President said that the people of the United States and their Government did not want war and did not wish to enslave or control any other nation or any other people.

PEACE

"They seek only to enjoy with their fellow men peace—a peace of honour and justice...."

"The United States is strong—and will remain strong—because that is the only way in today's world that the peace can be protected—but the United States will never use its strength to break the peace."

The President said that although the United States would never retreat in the face of force or the threat of force, it would always welcome and accept serious and honest proposals to negotiate international differences.

"The United States has pledged its national honour to work for peace," he declared. "For us this pledge is no less than a sacred obligation. It is freely—but not lightly—given to the nations of the world."—Reuter.

A MERRY XMAS FOR BIG POOL WINNER

Liverpool, Dec. 23. A 25-year-old Liverpool van driver, Mr. Ronald Smith, is assured of a merry Christmas with a £209,637 10s. win in a national football pool announced here today.

He will share this prize with four other members of his family.—China Mail Special.

Russia Creating New Type Of Army

Bonn, Dec. 23. A Soviet quarter-inch lead had been discovered on the Turkish border, and it is said it might be to protect Russian soldiers in nuclear warfare.

Quoting a correspondent in Ankara, *Der Deutsche Soldat*, a West German publication devoted to military matters, said the helmet had apparently rolled down a slope from the trans-Caucasian border into Turkish territory where it was found.

The Ankara correspondent said a Russian officer, who deserted and crossed into Turkey, told him that Soviet tactical and strategic training had recently been changed and officers were again being instructed in the art of static warfare.

According to the Soviet military experts, in atomic warfare there could be no successful defence based on

STOP PRESS

Independent, highly technical mobile units such as the West employed, the magazine said.

They were therefore creating a "lead-armoured army" which would be equipped to survive an atomic attack by sheltering under lead cupolas in trenches and foxholes, and then resume fighting with conventional weapons.

The magazine said special units were already equipped with asbestos uniforms and lead cupolas.

The lead helmet found by a Turkish patrol near the border covered the face and head completely, and rested on the shoulders, the magazine said. It had two sliding lead shutters to cover the eye openings.

Its weight made the wearer feel his knees sagging.—Reuter.



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KING'S PRINCESS

★ GRAND OPENING TO-DAY ★
Jerry Lewis' Latest and Greatest Comedy... The Best Holiday Entertainment for the Whole Family... It's Guaranteed.



PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS EARLY

FOX & BROADWAY

★ TO-DAY ONLY ★
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

ONCE AGAIN YOU'LL THRILL TO THE EXCITEMENT AND DARING OF THIS IMMORTAL ADVENTURE!



ADDED: Latest 20th Century-Fox Movie News

★ GRAND OPENING TO-MORROW ★

Kenneth More will delight Hong Kong Audiences in this role, and Jayne Mansfield emerges as a new personality—you will be amazed by her performance!



BOOK EARLY!

BROADWAY: 5 Shows To-morrow & on 26th Dec.
Extra Performance of "THE SHERIFF OF FRACTURED JAW" at 12.15 p.m.

ROXY: Morning Show To-morrow At 12.00 Noon
20th Century-Fox presents in CINEMASCOPE & COLOR "LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDED THING" starring: Jennifer Jones • William Holden

At Reduced Prices —
MORNING SHOW ON SUNDAY, 28TH DECEMBER
ROXY: At 12.00 Noon BROADWAY: At 12.15 p.m.
20th Century-Fox presents in CINEMASCOPE & COLOR "BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL" starring: Robert Wagner

At Reduced Prices —
BROADWAY: Special Morning Show on Sunday, 28th Dec.
At 11.00 a.m. WALT DISNEY'S TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS — At Reduced Prices —

ORIENTAL MAJESTIC

— FINAL TO-DAY —
At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

CINEMASCOPE
HERCULES



— TO-MORROW —
Morning Show To-morrow at 12.00

"THE FASTEST GUN ALIVE"

SHOWING TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



Morning Show To-morrow at 12.00
"THE BLUE CONTINENT"

FILMS CURRENT & COMING

by ANTHONY FULLER

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all. This year, your film fare is varied with the emphasis upon fun. In fact, the Star and the Metro-pole are the only cinemas playing straight stuff, with the Hoover and Paramount giving out melodrama.

The King's and Princess are trotting out Jerry Lewis in a goofy comedy, with the versatile Lewis going through all his paces. The Lee and Astor are presenting the Norman Wisdom slapstick farce, "The Square Peg." This has been specially flown out to give the fans a laugh for Christmas. The Roxy and Broadway are also relying on comedy with Kenneth More's "The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw." He comes with Jayne Mansfield, a fine comedy team, and I should not be surprised if they are paired again in a remake of "Rugles of Red Gap."

With the emphasis on laughter, hope this holiday works out as delightfully full of fun as the cinemas would have it.

★ "THE Badlanders," is a colourful piece of violence, which suggests the seasons greetings as, thick ears and black eyes to all men of bad will.

The script has goodbirds Alan Ladd and Ernest Borgnine released from prison, and making a beeline for a gold mine which Ladd intends to rob, that some kind of justice (never quite clear) might be done.

They rob the mine, thwart a double cross, and get the girls they want. "The Badlanders" is a trite plot, saved by colourful camera work, and strong direction of the suspense sequences.

Ladd, who always throws his full weight and fists, into this kind of film, puts up a good show in a literally shocking scene, as he introduces a change with the weapons of violence, when he and Borgnine range back in the river, and fight each other with chains.

The reciprocal massacre incident which of necessity accompanies a film of this kind, is shot out before the colourful background of the Mexican Cinco de Mayo celebration. Never was the long arm of coincidence stretched so far to help our dubious heroes in distress.

Romance, raw, rugged, and revolting, is introduced by Katy Jurado, in a quite unnecessary sequence which assures the audience she is the Mexican village's rough and ready gynaeologist.

Claire Kelly brings romance to the rough Alan Ladd, and after a spell of broken jaws, gunshot wounds, and collapsing mines, and last minute escapes, Alan leaves happily on a coach full of Claire Kelly.

He leaves because he's given his word to the Sheriff!

Well, there it is, and if you feel there is too much peace and goodwill about this year, a visit to the Hoover and Paramount will restore your violent mind.

★ LUXURY yachts, blue Mediterranean skies, remorseful and not so remorseful playboys, a repentant model who has fallen for the old, old story, constitute the ingredients of "Raw Wind In Eden," the Christmas Holiday choice by the Star and Metro-pole.

Jeff Chandler, the ex-playboy, and Esther Williams as the disillusioned model, team up to give us this piece of romance, which also has Rosanna Podesta, Carlos Thompson, and Rik Battaglia in the cast.

Credit for this film belongs to Cameraman Enzo Serafin. He has caught some beautiful scenes, contrasting the varying tides of the ocean with a crazy cliff, as symbolising the emotions of the central characters.

The story is as old as the background against which it is filmed. Carlos Thompson and Esther Williams are wrecked upon this enchanted island, where ex-playboy Jeff Chandler is sheltering from the cruel world.

Wind in Eden," is the only romantic film showing over Christmas, and the return of Esther Williams will be welcomed by her many fans.

★ THE King's and Princess are showing the happy-go-lucky "Rock-A-Bye-Baby," as their Christmas fare.

This VistaVision and Technicolor comedy, fringed with nappies, Talcum powder, and serenaded every now and again with a song, concerns a goofy small-town and takes no more than he bargains for, when he becomes the temporary father of a film star's triplets.

The story is slight, and is held together by some evergreen gags and some stunts, which have you laughing, as they are. One in particular which was brought out of the stunt cupboard, dusted, and placed in the film, reminds you of filmland's early days of stunts and vamps and drooping villains.

This is a cradle on the Nile, which really sheds tears when it is cosied by an irate producer.

TV is taken for the biggest ride filmland has yet undertaken, when Jerry Lewis is given the role of geysering the commercials. Really good, splendidly vicious, a blow right in the centre of the TV screen. The film effectively varies its jokes, adds popular sentiment, and logically introduces a number of cowboy tunes.

Jerry Lewis sings pleasantly, dances cleverly, and acts naturally as the big-hearted goof, Clayton.

Marilyn Maxwell and Connie Stevens score in contrast as the War Office, and find him, Reginald Gardiner, and Isabel Elsom head a first rate supporting team.

Sly digs at Hollywood, and vicious digs at TV heighten the fun, and the fade-out is a riot. No film exists in the film, and just settings should make "Rock-A-Bye-Baby" a holiday riot for Hongkong.

★ THE funny little man comedy, "The Square Peg," has us back to the war days, in a tremendous battle between the Pioneer Corps, and the local Borough Council.

Norman Wisdom, as champion of the latter, loses the fight with the War Office, and finds himself a member of the said Corps.

It is silly, but extremely funny as for instance when Norman puts his 'Stop and Go' board at 'Stop' while he makes his tea.

A Brass Band playing irritably in his ear is of no consequence, while Norman fights out his first battle with Sergeant Campbell Singer.

When the War Office retaliates by lining up the road sections of the local Borough Council, and Norman finds himself among old enemies, not even his threat of calling Mr Grimdale the Borough Surveyor (Edward Chapman) is of any avail.

As a member of the Pioneer Corps, the one bright spot in Norman's life is Honor Blackman, an A.T.S. Officer who soon joins the French resistance.

Norman Wisdom is full of slapstick in this film, and tries every gag in his book.

In A.T.S. dress, flirting coyly with the sergeant, as a

volunteer driver to Miss Blackman; as a parachutist unconsciously behind German lines, still sitting in a hut making tea; all this and more make a farcical film of real Wisdom vintage.

How he saves the resistance leaders, belongs to the plot, such as it is, but a scene leading to it can be mentioned without revealing the story.

Norman survives behind the lines, because of his likeness to the German Colonel.

Obviously, the next step is to take the Officer's place, which Wisdom does, only to find himself landed with the Officer's prima-donna mistress.

His gags while he takes over this role, are too funny for words; incidentally he doubts quite well. Don't expect a classic; don't go in carping mood; go for the sheer fun of the thing.

Norman Wisdom and Honor Blackman star, with magnificent support given by Edward Chapman as Mr Grimdale, the Borough Surveyor (and a man cannot rise higher in Norman Wisdom's opinion). Campbell Singer as the Sergeant, and Lucie Jacques as the Valkyrie Prima-donna.

A riot; a fun excursion to cuckoo-dom; madder than the Mad Hatter; Wisdom completely without wisdom behind the enemy lines.

★ "THE Sheriff of Fractured Jaw" has already quite a few interested fans awaiting its arrival. This 20th Century-Fox British comedy selected as the Holiday film, by the Roxy and the Broadway sets out as the Western to end all Westerns.

In its jovial manner, it takes every gag used by every Western since Westerns began, and gives them up hill and down dale.

objecting to scenes of it in the house because she did not like over-emphasis on it.

Ingrid Bergman plays Miss Aylward in the film, now showing in London.

Mr Edward Ugast, the film company's Far East supervisor, said Miss Aylward had signed a release agreement before the film was made from Alan Burgess' biography of her, "The Small Woman."

Miss Aylward, British-born, Chinese-naturalised missionary who now lives in Taipei, was reported from there to have objected to some scenes in the film and said she had not been recompensed for it.

Miss Aylward was quoted in a report as objecting to love scenes in the film on the ground that "I have never had a love scene in my life."

Another report from Taipei last February reported the missionary, formerly a campaigner against the old Chinese practice of binding women's feet, as

Fortunately, the English never mind laughing at themselves, and Kenneth More as the parody of all Englishmen, master of every situation he misunderstands, confidently assured that all trouble can be settled by an appeal to some urban bye-law; powerfully persuading Red Indian and gun slinger alike that it is "against the law," is as rich in humour as the richest Christmas pudding is rich in fruit.

The best gags, to my mind, are those which have Kenneth More the master of the quick draw. Quite unconscious he has outgunned every gunner in the West, he passes it off with that brusque English insincerity, "well it's only a parlor trick. Beneath my notice."

His appeal for peace and quiet in a sore perplexed Honky-tonk, "because I am quite unable to sleep," is too good for words.

The film has Jayne Mansfield as mistress of the said Honky-tonk, and her performance when she reels Kenneth More whose reputation as an Indian fighter has preceded him, is something grand.

Even Tombstone City, with its dubious reputation and graveyard, figure in this film, and to watch the unmythical Kenneth Sheriff More, followed around by the underlier complete with hearse, is another highlight of this comedy.

Henry Hull puts up a great performance as the Mayor of Fractured Jaw, and the scene when he presents Kenneth More to the town council as the likely candidate for Sheriff, is side-aching.

More stands there, with perfect English poise as if Henry Hull's ecology concerned everyone but More himself.

Made in big screen and colour, the Sheriff of Fractured Jaw like "Rugles of Red Gap," is a Western comedy with rich overtones of warmth and feeling. Right is right, everything turns out well for all but the badmen; even the Redmen become allies of this gun-toting valet from the old Country, who in turn becomes the terror Sheriff of Fractured Jaw.

U.S. Film Company Is 'Terribly Distressed'

Tokyo, Dec. 23.

A representative of the Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation said today it was "terribly distressed" over comments on the film "Inn of the Sixth Happiness" attributed in Taipei, Formosa, to Miss Gladys Aylward, the film's real-life heroine.

Miss Aylward, British-born, Chinese-naturalised missionary who now lives in Taipei, was reported from there to have objected to some scenes in the film and said she had not been recompensed for it.

Miss Aylward was quoted in a report as objecting to love scenes in the film on the ground that "I have never had a love scene in my life."

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CHRISTMAS DAY TELEVISION

Tomorrow — Christmas Day — for the first time since the inauguration of television in Hongkong, viewers will be able to watch special features simultaneously with the huge television audiences in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

This has been made possible by the close co-operation which has now been established between the BBC and the various TV networks in the Commonwealth and three programmes

of particular interest have been made available to Hongkong.

At 2.35 p.m. viewers can see "A Greeting For Christmas" which tells something of the history and development of the Christmas card.

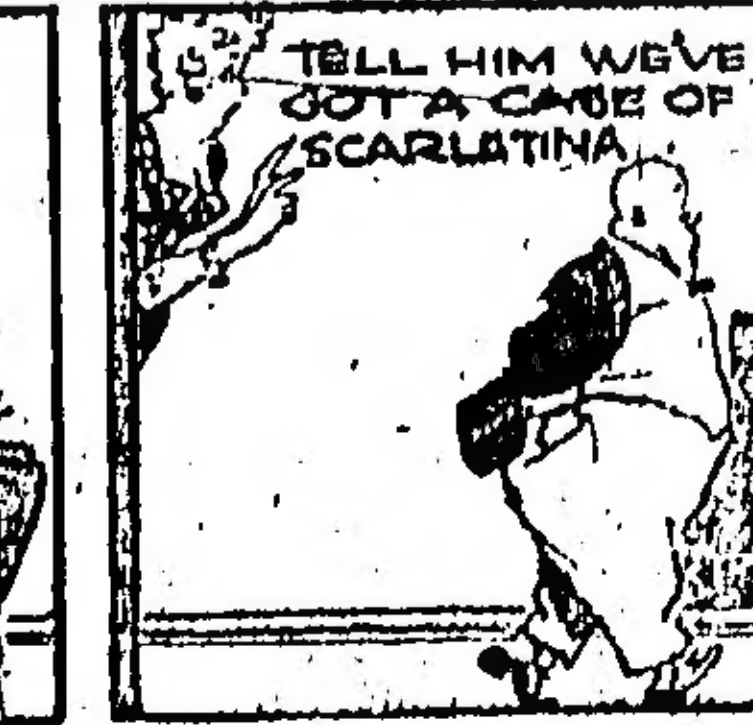
The BBC's traditional carol singing programme comes this year from Chesham College and a special tele-recording of it has been flown to the Colony. It is called "Here We Come Awassailing" and it will be screened at 5 p.m.

The viewing audience in the United Kingdom will sit down at 2.30 p.m. to watch the annual feature which leads up to the Christmas message from Her Majesty, The Queen.

In Hongkong the programme will be screened at 10.30 p.m. and Her Majesty's message will be heard at 11 p.m.

Other highlights of the Christmas Day TV schedule are the children's party from 4 to 6 p.m. and the Christmas edition of television signaw at 8.20 p.m.

POP-Bottle Fed



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4 SHOWS AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

THE NEWS THE ENEMY DREADED - WISDOM'S JOINED THE ARMY!

THE BANK ORGANISATION PRESENTS

NORMAN WISDOM



MORNING SHOW — AT REDUCED PRICES

LEE THEATRE ASTOR THEATRE

To-morrow at 11.30 a.m. M-C-M's CARTOONS

To-morrow At 11.00 a.m. TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS

Friday at 11.30 a.m. MIGHTY MOUSE

At 12.30 p.m. "ALEXANDER THE GREAT"

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GRAND OPENING TO-DAY

ALAN LADD • ERNEST BORGNINE

A treasure to steal... a woman to win... a past to forget...

MGM presents AN ARCOLA PRODUCTION

THE BADLANDERS

KATY JURADO • CLAIRE KELLY

In CinemaScope and METROCOLOR

Christmas Matinee Tomorrow at Reduced Admission

HOOVER At 12.00 Noon
Giant Magical Adventure
Color Cartoon Feature
"CULLIVER'S TRAVELS"

PARAMOUNT At 10.15 a.m.
Charlton HESTON
Eleanor PARKER in
"THE NAKED JUNGLE"

At the HOOVER THEATRE Friday, December 26

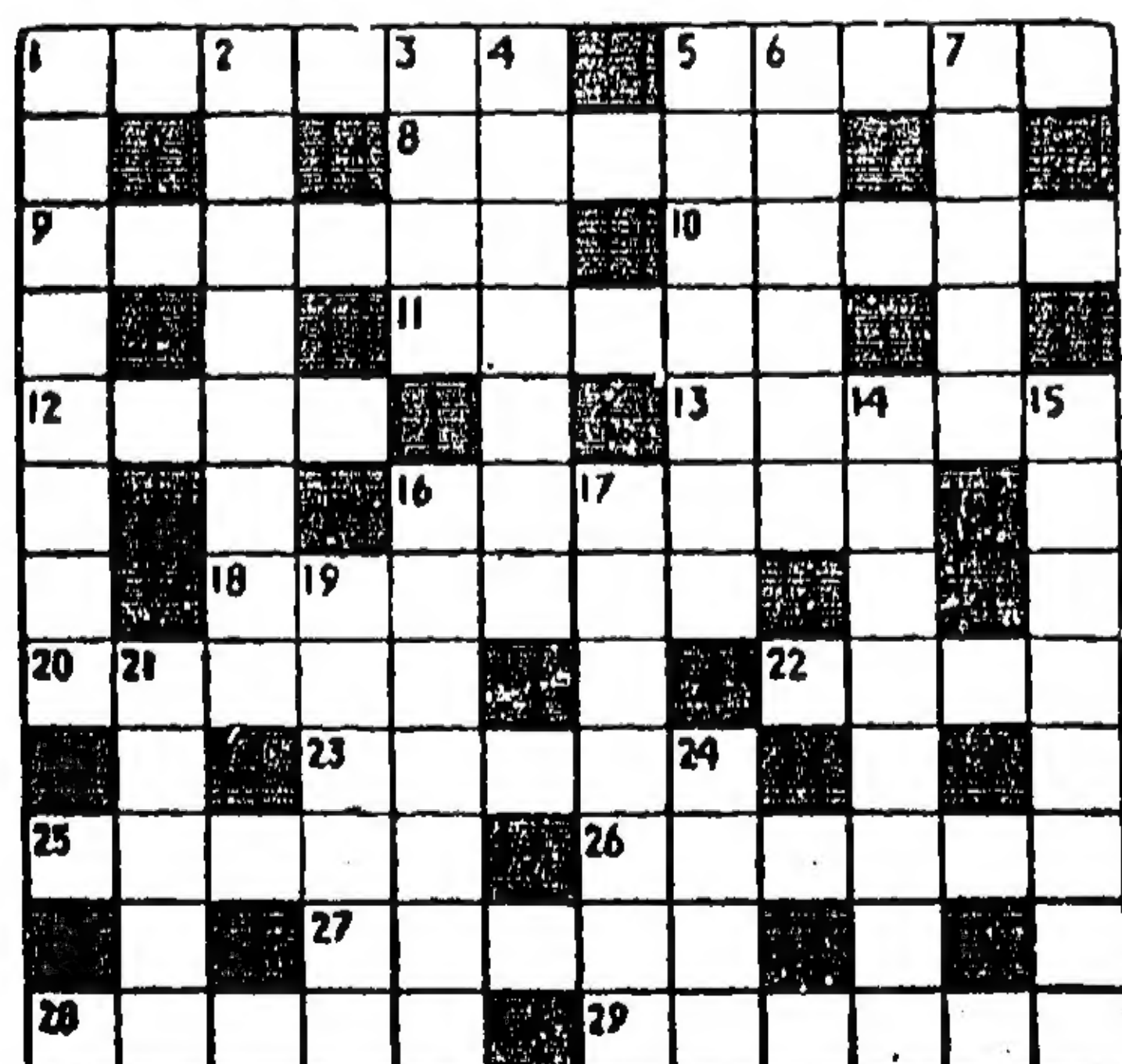
5 Performances of "THE BADLANDERS"

At 12.00 Noon, 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.



AIR-CONDITIONED
STAR METROPOLE★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.STAR: To-morrow Morning Show At 11.00 a.m.
FOX TECHNICOLOR CARTOONSSTAR: To-morrow Morning Show At 12.30 p.m.
20th Century-Fox presents in CINEMASCOPE & COLOR
"D-DAY THE SIXTH OF JUNE"
Starring: Richard TODD • Robert TAYLOR
At Reduced PricesSUNDAY 28th DEC., MORNING SHOW
STAR: At 11.00 a.m. METROPOLE: At 11.00 a.m.
LATEST FOX TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS PROGRAMMESTAR: At 12.30 p.m. METROPOLE: At 12.30 p.m.
20th Century-Fox presents in CINEMASCOPE & COLOR
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STAR METROPOLEGALA PREMIERE ON MON., 29th DEC.
STAR: At 8 p.m. METROPOLE: At 8.30 p.m.REGULAR RUN COMMENCING TUES., 30th DEC.
2 Shows Daily from Mondays to Fridays at 2.30 & 8.00 p.m.
3 Shows on Sat., Sun. & Holidays at 2.15, 5.30 & 8.45 p.m.
Special Admission: \$6.00, \$4.70, \$3.50 & \$2.40
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- Wine (6).
 - Scanning device (6).
 - Scotch parrot? (5).
 - He takes part in a game (6).
 - This man was a ship (6).
 - Stew from Islam (5).
 - Haw-haw? (4).
 - Follow on (5).
 - May keep one from going off the rails (6).
 - The East (6).
 - They're fine and dandy (5).
 - William? (4).
 - Game on board (6).
 - Gloss (5).
 - One end of a line (6).
 - Underground utterer (6).
 - Jack the Nipper? (6).
 - M. A. perhaps (6).
- DOWN**
- One of the earliest stages of man (10).
 - Evangelist (8).
 - Andy's partner (4).
 - Skilled, even without the headwear (7).
 - Dress (7).
 - It provides overhead cover (6).
 - Said by a Frenchman on leaving (6).
 - He might be said to give caps away (6).
 - Allegory (6).
 - Angler's stockings? (7).
 - And I see inside something cordial (7).
 - M.P.'s' vacation (6).
 - Introduce us to her (6).
 - Without a doubt (4).

TUESDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 3 Hair, 7 Broke, 8 Jody, 9 Fowl, 10 Hurdler, 12 Mint, 15 Dole, 18 Gail, 19 Oracle, 21 Thaw, 22 Adon, 23 Error, 26 Yo-yo, 28 Immense, 30 Ugly, 31 Tier, 32 Donor, 33 Side. Down: 1 Trout, 2 Skiddaw, 4 A-rose, 6 Film, 8 Chan, 9 Fell, 11 Loose, 13 Ivan, 14 The-o, 16 So-do-M, 17 Stay, 19 Gary, 20 Reprodes, 22 Army, 24 Filled, 25 Aston, 27 O-din, 29 Our.

HOLIDAY BUS TRAGEDY:
11 KILLEDNew York, Dec. 23.
A Greyhound bus carrying holiday-bound passengers collided with two trucks at Pulaski, Tennessee, and burst into flames tonight. The highway patrol reported 11 people were killed.

Police said the death toll might rise. An undetermined number were injured. "Some of the bodies are charred beyond recognition," a policeman said.

The driver of one of the trucks, a vehicle belonging to a Pulaski lumber company, said the bus tried to pass his truck on a hill.

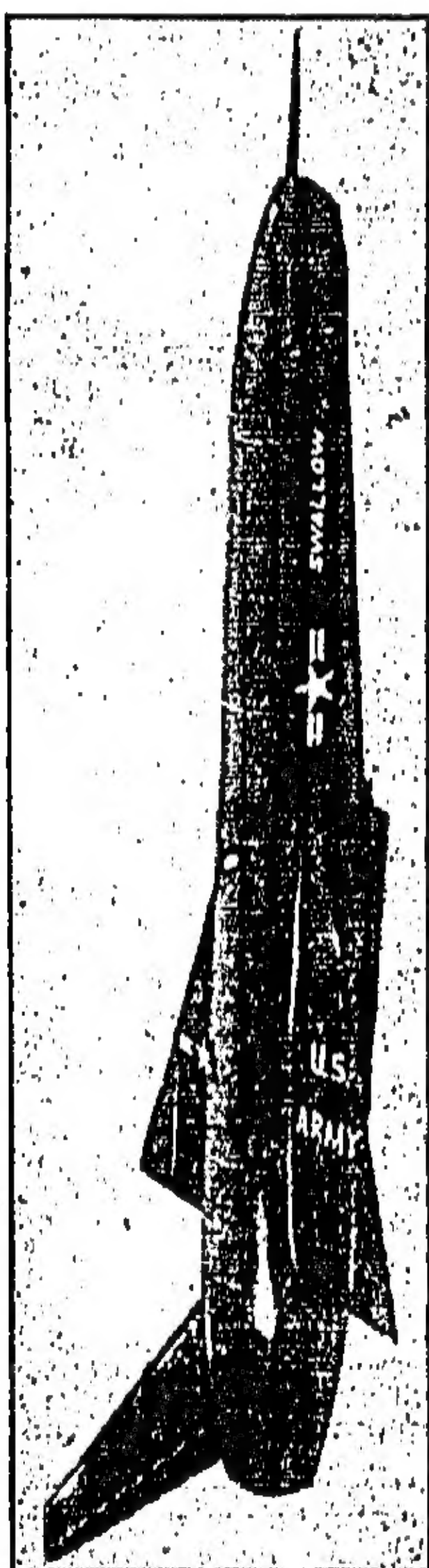
The driver said a large tractor-trailer truck came over the hill and the bus tried to whip back in front of the lumber truck.

Caught Bumper

The bus caught the lumber truck's front bumper, forcing the truck down the embankment just before the collision occurred, the driver said. The lumber truck driver was not injured.

The bus was described as a "blazing inferno" by witnesses.

There were at least 19 passengers in the bus, and the only survivors were reported to be negroes forced to sit in the rear by local segregation practices. They were able to escape by the back emergency door, police said.—U.P.I.

STRIPPER
NOT
ARTISTICStockholm, Dec. 23.
A Swedish Court ruled today after a week of reflection that a striptease is not an artistic dance and is punishable by penal sanctions.
The court of Harnsand, a small town in southern Sweden, was hearing the case of a German dancer who, after the failure of her open-air dance number, improvised a striptease which made such a hit with spectators that police had to intervene.
The judges disagreed with the spectators and sentenced the versatile dancer to a fine and court costs.—Franco-Press.NEW
JET

This is the "Swallow," a new surveillance drone being developed for the U.S. Army Signal Corps under a \$25 million contract by the guided missile division of the Republic Aviation Corp. The small, pilotless jet aircraft, designated the SD-4, will use a variety of advanced sensory techniques for military reconnaissance purposes, including radar, infrared detection, and photography.—U.P.I. Telephoto.

New Job At 77

Princeton, Dec. 23.
Senator H. Alexander Smith (Republican-New Jersey) retires next month after 14 years in the Senate, but at the age of 77 he is starting a new career as a globe-trotting troubleshooter for the State Department.

Mr. Smith, former chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expects to visit the Near and Far East in February in an effort to shore up America's position among uncommitted nations.—U.P.I.

Moscow Bans US
Radio NewsmenNew York, Dec. 23.
The Soviet authorities today banned Edmund Stevens, acting correspondent for the National Broadcasting Company in Moscow, from making further broadcasts from Moscow.

A spokesman for N.B.C. said that Stevens, who has been representing the network as well as Time magazine in Moscow since last Saturday when the regular N.B.C. correspondent Irving Levine was denied the use of broadcasting facilities, was interrupted in the middle of a transmission.

He later sent a cable reporting that he had been banned from broadcasting until further notice. No reason was given to him.

The N.B.C. spokesman said Stevens could still use cable facilities and telephone circuits, but pointed out that the phone circuits were far inferior in quality to broadcast transmissions.

Levine, now on his way back to the United States, reported last Saturday that he had been accused of violating censorship.—Reuter.

Artist
"Not Torn
Between
Worlds"Darwin, Dec. 23.
Mr Justice Kriewaldt, Darwin High Court Judge, today dismissed an appeal that famous aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira had been "torn between two worlds," when he broke the law by supplying liquor to a native ward of the state.

Namatjira, whose paintings of the Australian outback are on display in leading world galleries, had his sentence reduced from six months to three months which he will start to serve early in the New Year. The Namatjira case roused wide public sympathy of the view that Namatjira, granted full citizenship rights and made wealthy by the sale of his paintings, was constantly trying to obey both the white man's law and the law of his tribe, the Aruntas.

Arunta law provides that one tribe member will share all his good fortune with another and by this argument Namatjira was unable to share liquor with another Arunta.—China Mail Special.

Saw Last
HangingDeal, Dec. 23.
Mrs Sarah Finch of Deal who today celebrated her 100th birthday, saw the last public hanging in England 92 years ago.—China Mail Special.

Here Is Proof

Penang, Dec. 23.
An 18-year-old Malaysian boy, Ahmad Bin Abdul, who is hitch-hiking round Malaysia to prove that the Encyclopaedia Britannica's description of the Malays as a lazy race is wrong, has arrived here after a two-month walk.
Ahmad left his home in Sungai Rambai, Malacca, on September 22 with only two dollars in his pocket. "My adventures so far have made me more determined than ever to challenge the article in the Encyclopaedia Britannica," he told reporters today."To prove how wrong this conception is, I am prepared to go further and hitch-hike found the world."
Ahmad lodged in the Penang Police Barracks last night. He leaves for Kedah tomorrow and plans to cross the Malaysia-Siam border for a trek to Bangkok before the end of this month.—China Mail Special.Russia
Willing
To TalkMoscow, Dec. 23.
Russia said tonight she was ready to meet "other interested states" to discuss problems of European security, provided NATO countries were ready to discard the preliminary settlement of the German question.

In a statement on "the guarantee of stable peace on earth," the official Soviet news agency, Tass, said Soviet government circles had noted that NATO countries did not at present link the two questions—as they had before.

If NATO countries were really ready to settle European security without making it first dependent on settlement of the German question, Russian government circles believed there would be "no insurmountable obstacles" to success on at least some of the questions, Tass said.—Reuter.

Cypriots Released

Nicosia, Dec. 23.
Over 60 Greek-Cypriot detainees who had been held for varying periods as suspected terrorists were released today, bringing the total number of prisoners freed in December to over 600.
Almost 2,000 others are still being held.—Franco-Press.HERMIT
FOUND IN
CAVETeramo, Dec. 23.
An 84-year-old Italian hermit who fled into the mountains many years ago because he was "nourished by the noisy and chaotic modern world" has been found living in a cave.

The hermit, Domenico Leone, was accidentally discovered by a village priest high up on the Grand Sasso, central Italy's highest mountain, where he had lived on herbs and chestnuts.

A stretcher party set out to bring Leone down to hospital where he will be placed on a special diet.—Reuter.

RITZ CINEMA

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MERRY
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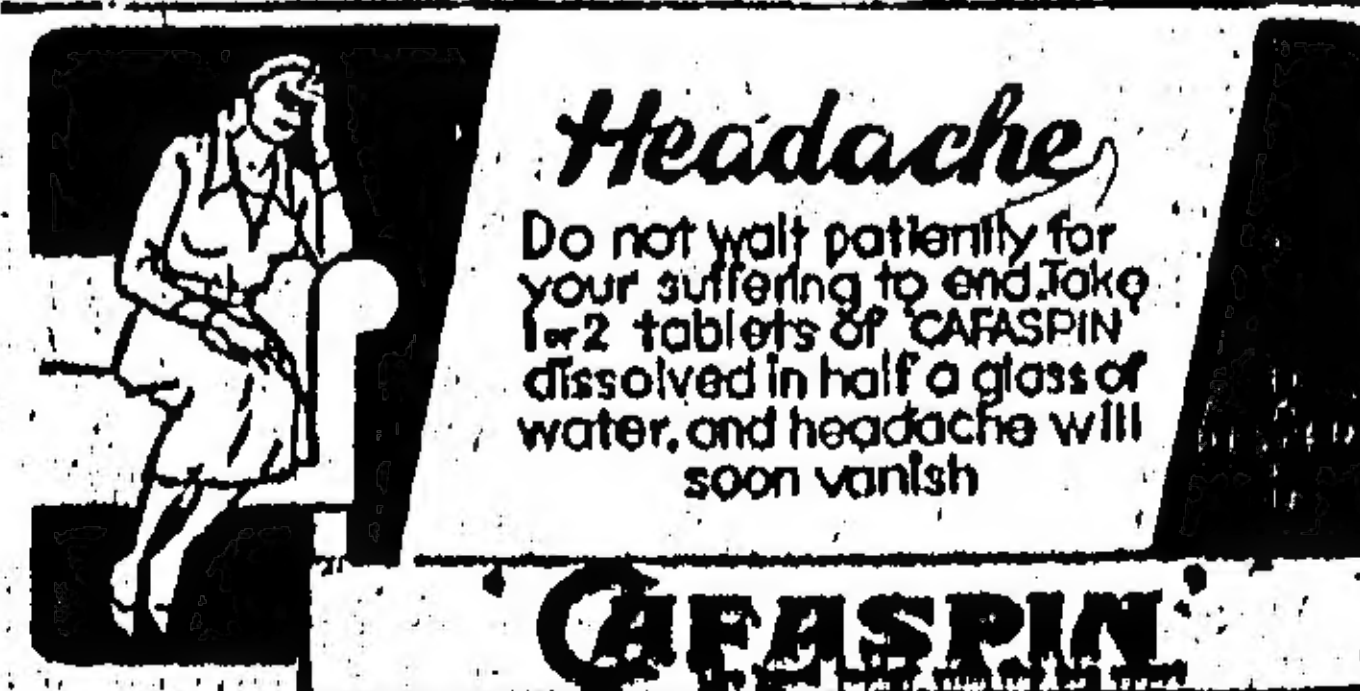
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add ice
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WITH CUCUMBER RIND & MINT.

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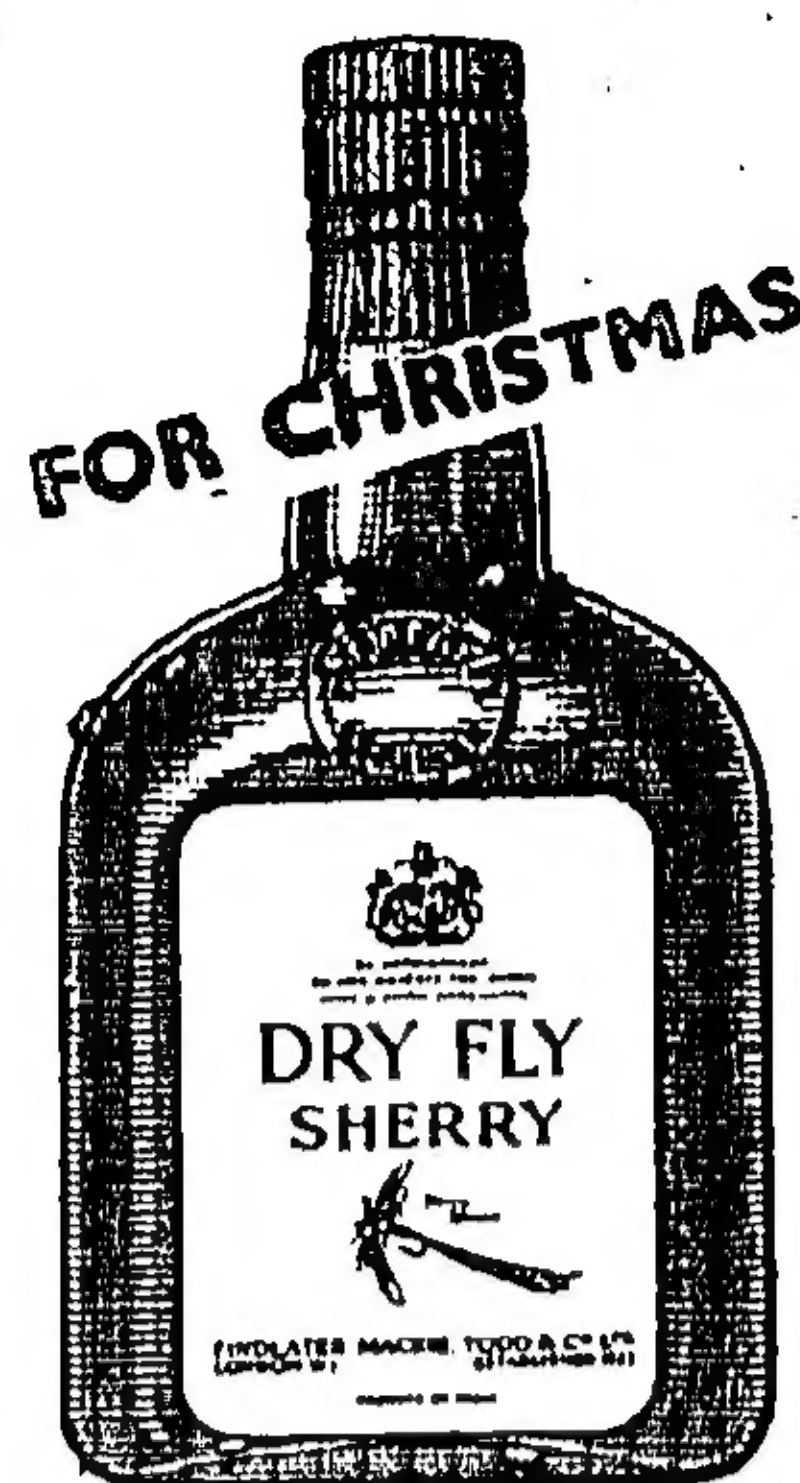
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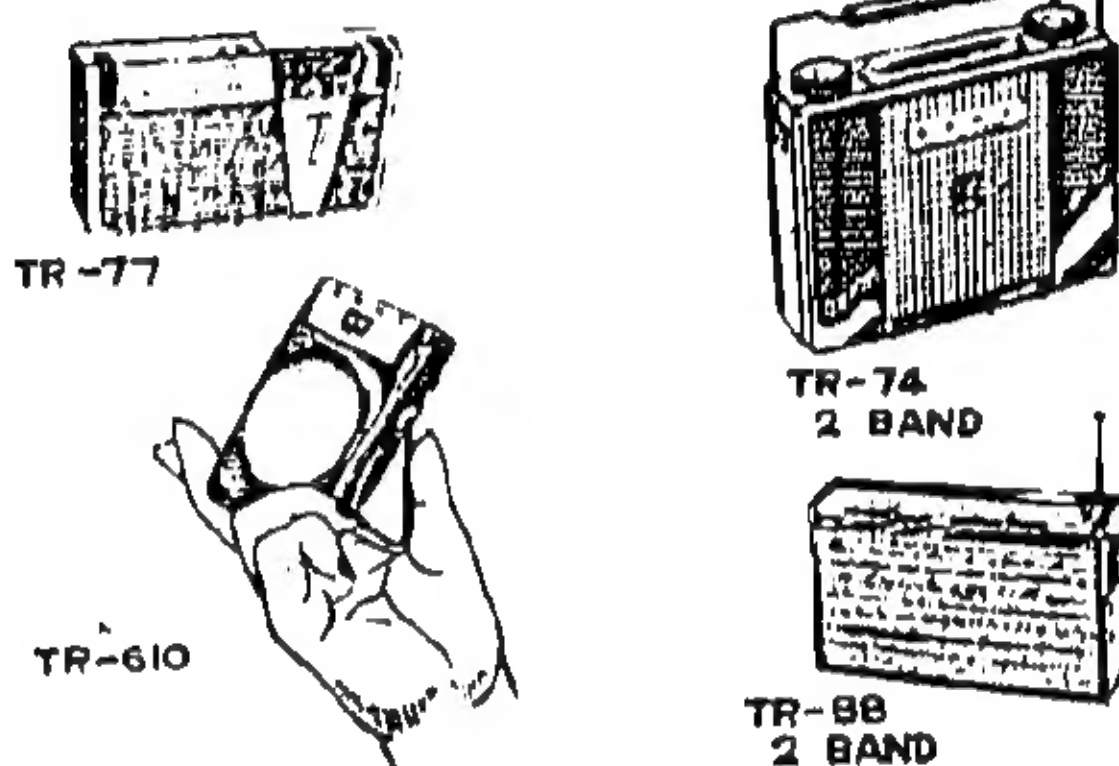


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A Glimpse Of The Press

100 Years

Ago

IN turning over the files for 1857, no matter how charitably minded you are to say the least, both private and public affairs leave much to be desired.

The reader must realise that the Colony was an isolated place. The speediest news could come no quicker than the fastest ship. Even when the domestic affairs of the Colony were referred to London, so long an interval of time found London facing an accomplished situation.

The result was decisions had to be made on the spot. Being made on the spot, they could be reversed on the spot, and differences of opinion were not submitted to arbitrary bureaucratic findings. Rather were there outspoken statements.

In short, things that are whispered today behind closed doors, were then thrashed out in the full light of public opinion. Fair statement or libel are now matters referred to legal opinion, but our forbears acknowledge no such niceties.

A letter to the press was the mildest form of attack. A savage editorial a mere pluck. A knockdown blow, by no means a rarity.

I think a fair observer would select the years 1857 to 1858 as the most unpleasant in the history of the Colony's public life. In fact, following these years, Sir Hercules Robinson sent from London to do a little spring cleaning. Then after, none of the incidents associated with the public and social life of the Colony during the years under discussion were repeated on so savage a scale. During the twelve years of its existence, the China Mail managed to keep out of trouble.

Maybe the proud announcement which designated it the bearer of Government's Official Announcements, gave it a sense of responsibility. During those years, it was certainly pronounced a journal which con-

JOHN LUFF's second chapter of "THIS HONGKONG..." EDITORS' ESCAPADES

HONGKONG'S PRESS IN THE COLONY'S EARLY DAYS PULLED NO PUNCHES IN NEWS REPORTING OR IN ITS EDITORIALS. FAIR STATEMENT OR LIBEL ARE TODAY MATTERS REFERRED TO LEGAL OPINION—BUT IN THOSE DAYS OUR FORBEARS ACKNOWLEDGED NO SUCH NICETIES. IN THE SECOND PART OF THIS ABSORBING SERIES THE WRITER DESCRIBES SOME OF THE MUD-SLINGING THAT WENT ON IN THOSE DAYS....



Wyndham Street — The Colony's "Fleet Street," as it appeared in those days.

ducted itself with a sense of propriety. If that was the case, the China Mail was soon to revoke any such sentiments, and fling itself into the fray.

We have seen that Mr Tarrant was carrying around a large-size chip upon his shoulder. As a civilised Government servant, he was after Government, but not inhibited by any delicate feelings on the law of libel, he printed any gossip he came across, and when he could not find any mud to fling, he made some.

Dr Eitel, a later historian of the Colony says the Colony at this time was convulsed by "an internal chronic warfare, the acerbities of which beggared all description."

As a later generation would say, "Brother, you said it."

Naturally, the newspapers reflected this feeling, and none better than the Friend of China, or worse, should I say?

To quote Dr Eitel again: The Friend of China "generally criticised the Government and its public officers with some animus."

The Friend of China "repeatedly insinuated that Lieutenant-Governor Caine (while he was Chief Magistrate) had been in collusion with his comrade's squeezing propensities."

Even a later editor of the China Mail queried as to why Lieutenant-Governor Caine allowed five years to pass before he took any action to refute this libel.

The reason is that the unfortunate Caine was called upon to give evidence before a judge who had earlier been suspended for looking too deep into the power pot. But Caine brought his case earlier, it would have been heard before this judge.

Thus am I able to perhaps right an earlier wrong done by the China Mail. But Caine's silence was misinterpreted by the press at the time, and at once there broke out a vicious period in journalism. In short, the press went yellow.

The more wicked and vicious the paper, the greater its popularity, and Hongkong lapped it up.

The Daily Press seized the wrong pig by the ear. Mr Murrow, its editor, had been crossed by the Registrar-General in certain business transactions in connection with emigration. Mr Murrow outdid Mr Tarrant in scurrilous statement. He said the Registrar-General was "the tool of unscrupulous Chinese compradors, and in league with pirates."

At any rate, the Registrar-General resigned, but was later persuaded to carry on.

The Daily Press, thus encouraged went a step higher, and had a go at the Governor, and accused him (Sir J. Bowring) of corruptly favouring the firm of Jardine Matheson & Co. in the matter of public contracts. Murrow was put on trial for this, and received six months in gaol, the jury taking only fifteen minutes to arrive at a verdict.

The judge also fined him \$100 "to vindicate the law, and put a stop to the unmeasured abuse of public individuals."

It seems that the editor, Mr Murrow, quite enjoyed himself in gaol. He was put in the debtor's side of the prison, and was allowed every comfort.

While in the gaol he still ran his paper, and his editorials were a beauty to behold, and what he said about the Governor was no one's business.

Strangely enough, criticism of this originated not in Hongkong, but in London, when the Illustrated London News of July 3rd 1859, severely criticised Hongkong Government for allowing such scandalous reports to issue from gaol.

When Mr Murrow was released, he immediately took action at law against Sir John Bowring, asking for \$5,000

damages for assault and false imprisonment, but when the case came on in the December of 1858, it ended in the favour of the defendant.

But reading through these ancient crackling pages, you find that the press were the least to offend.

In 1857, minding no words, you find that the Attorney-General charges the Registrar-General with having a scandalous personality, interest in brothels, and of having spent part of his life associating with Chinese outlaws and pirates.

The least said about such matters, the better, but it remains as a fact that the press, in the Colony, set itself on the side of decency and law.

The battle was fierce, and the rewards did not always go, as poetical justice would have them.

The Attorney-General resigned when the Registrar-General was found guilty.

The Governor then called upon the Attorney-General to defend himself under pain of suspension. He was suspended in February 1858, entered into private practice, and started to give Government a bad time.

The China Mail managed to keep clear of all this by the simple expedient of avoiding court cases, probably because of its being declared a semi-official paper.

However, things were going too far. Mr Andrew Wilson, the editor of the China Mail commented very candidly on the way in which the ex-Attorney-General had conducted the case of the Crown versus Mr Tarrant.

At this, the China Mail threw off all connection with Government and arranged itself alongside the other papers.

At last 1857, and the editor of the Friend of China is again in trouble. He is on a charge of libelling the Acting Colonial Secretary whom he accuses of burning the books of Ma Chow Wong, the pirate, to screen himself and the Registrar-General against a charge of complicity with pirates.

This time the editor was found, "not guilty" and costs were awarded against Government.

This man, however, due to the fact that the Governor had found it a reasonable time to take a trip to Manila.

Elated with this success, Mr Tarrant and the suspended Attorney-General commenced an agitation in England against Lieutenant-Governor Caine, the case mentioned earlier in this article.

This was the end. The article in the Friend of China reads: "Colonel Caine must either be a felon for whom transportation would be too light a punishment—or he is a much maligned man."

The jury decided the latter and Mr Tarrant went to gaol for twelve months and was also fined £50.

Tarrant pleaded justification in court, but his charge against Caine was a particularly odious one, and the jury returned a verdict, accordingly.

That finished up the Friend of China. Tarrant went 'sick' to gaol and was moved into the hospital, but the visiting justices flung him out and he was sent back to the cells to mix with the unbearably loathsome scum who filled Hongkong's gaol at that time.

Out of pity, Hongkong petitioned the new Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, who had been sent out to put a stop to all this scandalous stuff. Sir Hercules turned the petition down.

But agitation grew and at last the Secretary for State intervened. He suggested that Tarrant be transferred to the debtors side of the prison, and that half his sentence be remitted.

Eventually, the case came up before the House of Commons. Tarrant was released immediately, his fine having been paid by subscription.

But Tarrant's troubles were not at an end. Dr Bridges, whom you will remember had a grudge against Tarrant, brought a case against Tarrant for costs, \$2,263, in connection with the trial.

Dr Bridges made no secret of the fact that he was taking it out of Tarrant. This only aroused public sympathy. Another subscription was raised and the well was dismissed from the

stormy petrel of old Hongkong was on the wing again. He started up the Friend of China again, transferred to Canton, and in 1862, to Shanghai.

But Tarrant had lost his fiery zeal, and his too eager aptitude for negotiating the slippery pole of libel. He sold the Friend of China in 1869, but without Tarrant it folded up.

In 1870, he returned to London, broken in health, and he died in 1872. On his death, he bequeathed to Hongkong's old City Hall a complete file of the Friend of China. Where it is now, I have no idea. Probably it is in a box which is locked, but such boxes which are locked with the China Mail, reconstruct the story in part.

With the arrival of Sir Hercules Robinson in 1859, who had instructions to refrain from "stirring up that mass of mud which appears to have encumbered society in Hongkong," an all round improvement was expected. However, among the first business was an enquiry into the Civil Service. This case, briefly mentioned on page 193 of the "Hongkong" was taken up by the editor of the Daily Press.

The quarrel was really between Mr May, the Superintendent of Police, and Mr Caldwell, the Registrar-General, who had been mentioned in passing as having too great an interest in pirates. One pirate in particular causing the police much trouble, Ma Chow Wong.

The Daily Press accused Mr Caldwell of extortion and perjury. At once proceedings were begun against the editor for libel. The editor withdrew the charges.

In looking things over from this distance of time, it seems this distance of time, it seems the newspaper man had a rough time. In most cases, there existed some basis for their charges. But even if they seem unfairly treated, the fact remains that no man can be tried against five charges of libel against himself, Murrow lost his head, and started on the Governor.

But Sir Hercules stood firm, and at that, the mud slinging which had disgraced the Colony ceased to some degree.

The enquiry, instituted by Sir Hercules Robinson into the May-Caldwell business did not satisfy Mr Murrow, the editor of the Daily Press, who produced prisoners as witnesses against Caldwell for whom he entertained an implacable hatred.

When Sir Hercules Robinson refused to reopen the enquiry, meanwhile reminding Murrow that he had five charges of libel against himself, Murrow lost his head, and started on the Governor.

But Sir Hercules stood firm, and at that, the mud slinging which had disgraced the Colony ceased to some degree.

The fact remains that Caldwell was dismissed from the

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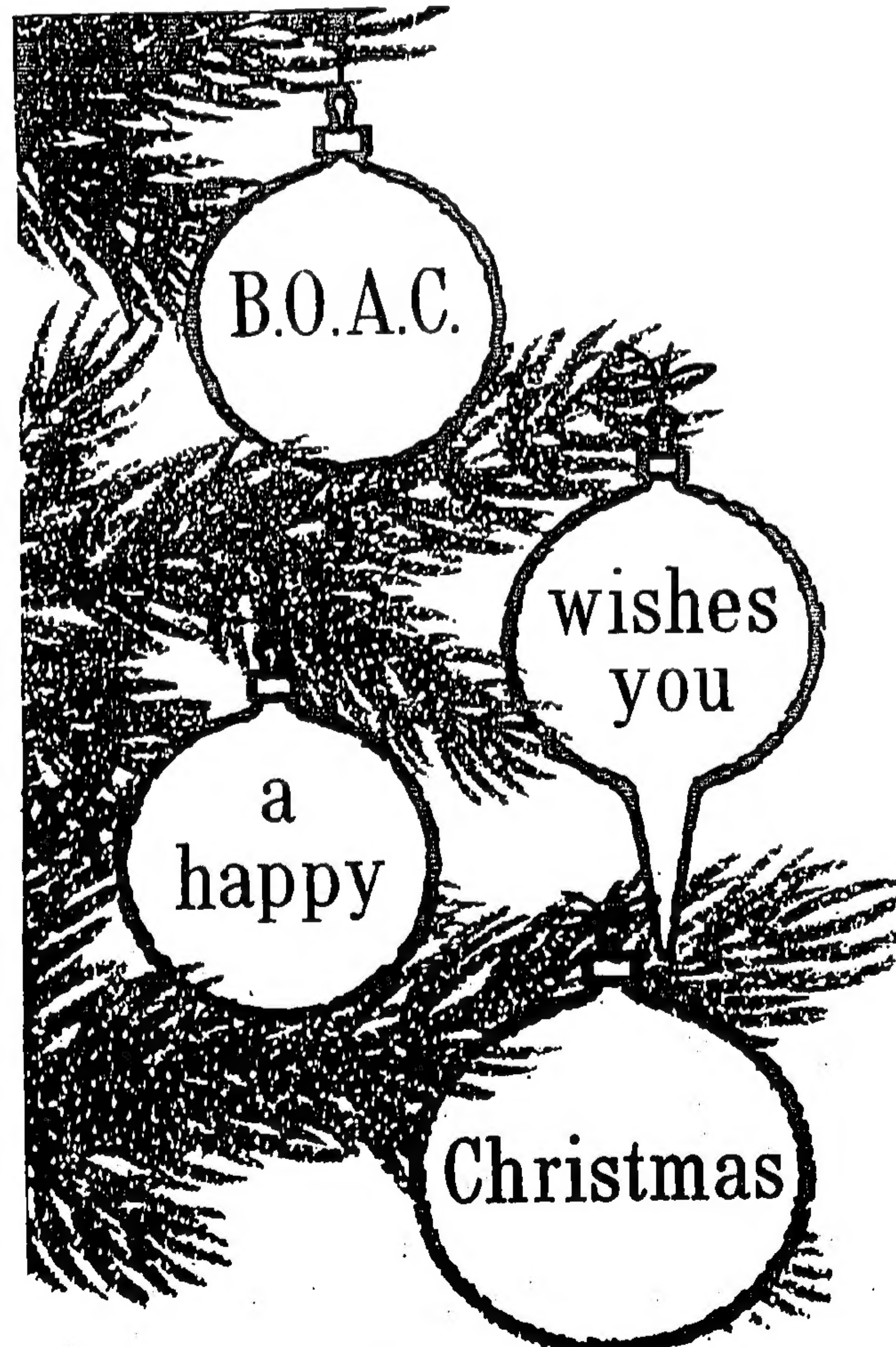
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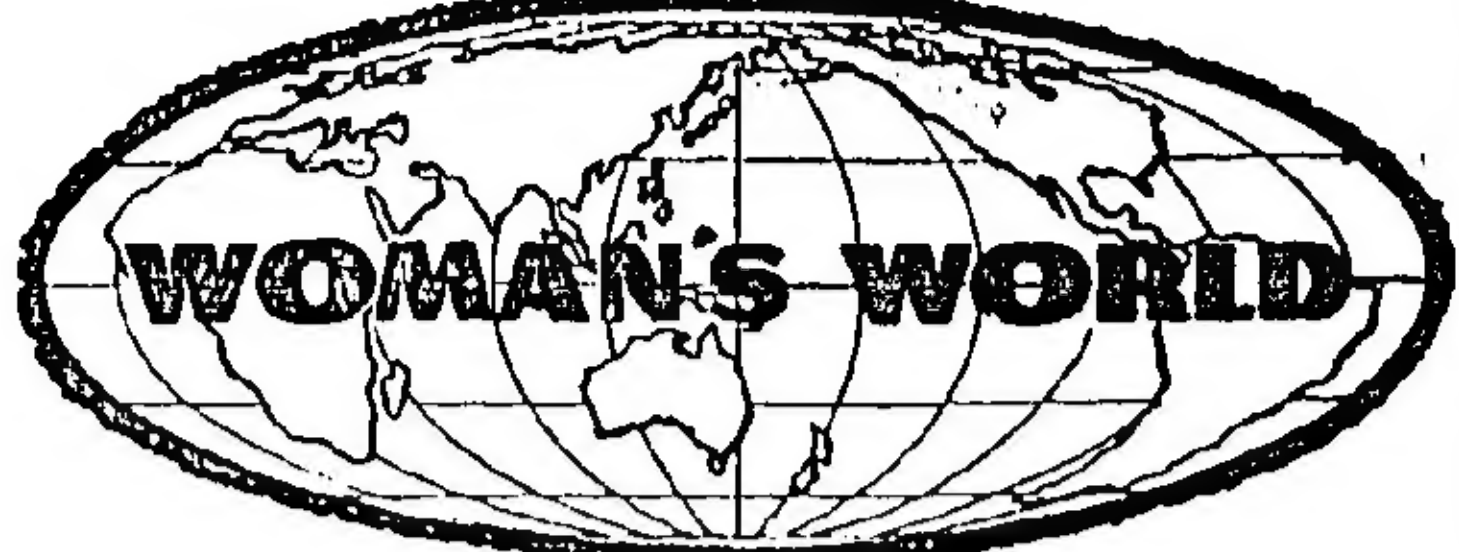
ZERO DAY ON THE MOTORWAY... BY JAK



"Not bad for a start, sir. Three out of seven, wrong side of the road—and we don't even open till tomorrow."

LONDON REGIONAL RAILWAY

WOMAN SENSE AN ARTIST SPEAKS...



New York. PEG NEWTON, who has built a successful business looking up to people, says the tall girl is lucky in matters of clothes.

"More things look good on her," she said. She pointed out that most models come in the five feet, seven inches and above classification, the heights for which Miss Newton designs.

The designer believes hers is the first shop in the world to cater exclusively to the tall set. She established it in 1940, after several years of working on a style magazine.

"What inspired the business? My own five feet and 10 inches, that's what," she laughed. "From the time I was 12, I towered. Putting the tall girl is more than

just adding inches to a skirt. Clothes have to be proportioned to the whole body."

When she decided to use the giraffe as her trademark, she received an irate letter from one customer. "Take it off your mailing list," she wrote. "I do not like being compared to a long-necked, spotted, spotted creature..."

The designer-manufacturer said the highest concentration is in the northern Mid-East, where Scandinavian and Nordic types have settled.

"Today's tall girl uses her height as an asset. She plays it up, instead of trying to look shorter," said Miss Newton. "No more flat hats and flat heels for her."

By GAY PAULEY

PEOPLE
I MEET
by
JOANNE
BLAIR

While the two Siamese cats "Jezebel" and "Della" attended to the needs of their infant families and "Chips," the Alsatian, struck a noble pose upon the floor of the tastefully decorated studio, Mrs. Ruth Robertson spoke of the coming art exhibition to be given by the Hong-kong Artists.

"The public will see only very few exhibits," she said, "and only paintings that have never been shown before."

"But besides our group," she continued, "we are planning to show the work of several guest artists from other Asian countries. One of our chief aims is to encourage young Asian artists to take up modern art and to see that they have some sort of recognition."

Mrs. Robertson's own paintings, several of which are displayed on the walls of her studio, vividly portray her high standing in the art world as an

abstract expressionist. Evidence of this was recently shown when Mr. A. Arenberg, a director of the Chicago

Institute of Fine Arts, bought her gouache painting "Clear Water" the first time he saw it and also by the very favourable notices she received from both the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune during her exhibition there in 1957.

"I work only in spirits," Mrs. Robertson says, "sometimes for periods of up to three months. During that time I find I'm pretty prolific, but I'm also pretty exhausted as well."

Feeling that an artist sometimes needs a change of medium in order to stay "fresh" and to relax a little from the stresses and strains that are the companions of the abstract artist, Mrs. Robertson finds her outlet in mosaic work.

And here, even the cats lend assistance, for both Jezebel and Della are given to swift feline pursuits of moths and other insects and are not unknown to

leave a trail of smashed vases in their wake.

"My job," laughs Mrs. Robertson, "is to follow along behind these lightning attacks and gather up the pieces which, be it or not, make excellent mosaic stones. These I carefully sort, classify and file away for future use!"

Her most recent work in this line is the fish pool she designed for the home of Dr. & Mrs. John Carey-Hughes in the New Territories.

Working with Italian Mosaic, Mrs. Robertson designed an expressionistic pattern in sub-marine life, using the old Byzantine method of leaving the mosaics rough. Here, her finely developed sense of colour is reflected by her use of bold colours on the exterior of the pool which contrast brilliantly with the depth-giving paler shades used on the inside.

"It's hard work," admits Mrs. Robertson, "and takes a great amount of energy and time, but nevertheless, tremendously satisfying."

Apart from running a home, painting, designing mosaic table-tops and dealing with exquisite but temperamental cats, Mrs. Robertson has even found time to do the interior decorating for two yachts.

One was the yacht of H. E. the Governor of Borneo and the other, that of H. E. the High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands.

Choosing Thai silk due to its washability, strength and elegance, Mrs. Robertson made colourful use of it in the dining saloons, lounges and stairways for cushions and upholstery. On one occasion she used its beautiful blend of colours to bring about a dominating theme of lavender, mauve and emerald green, and again, as a saucy-sized piping to enhance a linen bedspread. Introduced into this same exquisite suite is a coffee table bearing a built-in chess-board.

Mrs. Robertson remarked on how much she enjoyed both of these brief assignments.



Ruth Robertson muses about her painting "The Gossips."

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

BORN today you have a fearless, adventurous nature. Let someone else do the doing, and you will not get into any trouble. As a youth, this restlessness led you to become a wanderer. But you will come to some bad end. But your personal goal of good fortune appears to be within your grasp. You are essentially an inventor. Since you are essentially an inventor, you will be in a position to make a name for yourself. There is more than a little of the reformer in your nature and you are eager to meet any challenge. You are at your best when faced with serious competition and for this reason, you are often in the line of fire. You are the happiest living in the world where the merry and lively keep you on your feet all the time.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—If there are children in the family, do not let them be up at the crack of dawn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Forget everything having anything to do with work or the office. Concentrate on home life.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—This is your best day of the week. And Christmas is just what you need. Wonderful time.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—It is to be hoped that your "everybody" is pleased with your gift. You guessed right.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—A special Christmas message from a brother or sister at a distance could bring pleasure.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Might have been a day for exchanging greetings with the neighbors.

BORN on Christmas Day is quite an exceptional happening and those who are born on this day are exceptional. They are a rare breed, which only needs development to become outstanding. They have a clear, keen mind and the ability to express themselves forcefully and succinctly. You have a natural understanding for all when you meet and your social consciousness impels you to work in behalf of others, even if it means considerable self-sacrifice.

You are not the type to work well under the supervision of others and do your best when you are left alone. Developing plans which you have initiated, consequently, it would be best for you to strike out on your own at an early age. Be self-reliant and you can have exactly what you want out of life. Do not let others, and you will miss reaching the success which should rightfully be yours.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—No doubt your duties will need the major portion of your close attention today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—There is romance in the air for you. Someone you have met at a Christmas party?

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Not too good a day for business. Almost everyone will be thinking of the holiday season.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—If you have accepted an invitation for this evening, be sure to look your best.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—If among those who have to work today, make the best of it. There are many others too.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—No use trying to do anything in a big hurry today. Just do what you can, slowly.

BORN today, you are a person of originality and ingenuity. No problem appears too difficult of solution. People learn to do things in times of crisis and you are the one who gives good, practical advice. You understand human nature and are able to interpret even the most complicated human situation in the simplest form. You see the imperfections in men but instead of merely criticizing, you make a serious effort to suggest constructive corrections. Every question has an answer. The only problem, as you see it, is to find that answer.

The unseen and the mysterious interest you keenly find in some of these phenomena. You have keen intuitions, and must learn to heed them. Always act on the "hunch," small voice" which tells you that an external suggestion from either friends or relatives. It does no harm to listen to what others have to say, but that doesn't mean you have to do as they say.

A harmonious home life is necessary to your contentment and the lack of this element in your marriage brings disaster. Be sure that you think twice before marrying, for your loyalties would not permit you to change, once you have made your selection. Be sure that the one you marry has similar cultural interests and in the one who is willing to let you take the lead in the marital partnership.

Among those born on this date are: Admiral George Dewey, U.S.N.; Francis Brown, congressman and president of Union Theological Seminary; Henry Miller, author; Charles James Matthews, actor; dramatist; Emma Southworth, author.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—This is a fine day for practically anything you wish to undertake. Make the most of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Your best day of the week, so concentrate something of importance to your future.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Could be the day you would meet someone new and interesting today. Cement the friendship.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—Stay within your budget, no matter how great the temptation to be extravagant.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—If in retail merchandising, you can make a profit on a quick turnover.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Could be the day you would receive a Christmas present. This could be a good day to do it.

STORIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The Fix-it Workshop

—It Had Wonderful Buttons To Push—

By MAX TRELL

THE busiest Pixie in O'Cheer Hall (which is where all the Pixies live) was Pixie O'Fix-it. Like Pixie O'Scowl and Pixie McSnooze and Pixie McMersey and the twins, Pixie O'Yes and Pixie O'No, this Pixie O'Fix-it was no bigger than a Grasshopper. He wore a green suit and a hat that looked like a sawed-off acorn with a feather in it.

It was a sawed-off acorn! Knarf and Hanid, the Shadows with the Turned-About Noses, found Pixie O'Fix-it in

his workshop. The workshop was a small room at the far end of O'Cheer Hall. It was called the Fix-it room. This is where everybody who had anything that needed fixing came from miles around.

On this particular afternoon, Knarf and Hanid found a whole crowd waiting in line at the door of the Fix-it room.

There was a Cat with his whiskers bent from trying to squeeze into a small Mouse hole. There was a Butterfly with a broken wing.

There was a Frog who needed a new glass in his eyeglasses.

There was a Snail whose shell needed a new coat of paint. There was a Daddy Longlegs who needed new rubber heels on three shoes.

There was a Firefly who wanted new batteries in his flashlight.

"Take it easy, take it easy!" cried Pixie O'Fix-it. "Don't anybody push! Everybody will be taken care of."

He invited Knarf and Hanid to come into the Fix-it room and watch him as he worked.

"I like to have folks watching me while I work," Pixie O'Fix-it said. "I only wish you could help me."

"Oh, we'll be glad to help you," Hanid told him.

"Just tell us what to do," said Knarf.

"Well," said Pixie O'Fix-it, "while I'm tending to those people out there—the Frogs and Snails and Butterflies and Beetles and things—I'd appreciate it if you'd work that little machine I've got in the back."

Knarf and Hanid said they'd be only too glad to work the little machine.

"It's all set," Pixie O'Fix-it said. "Just press the button and it will start working. Put everything that comes out into those empty bags."

Knarf went to the back of the workshop and looked at the machine. It was about as big as a sewing machine except that the wheels were made of wood and a stream of water like a brook flowed into it at one end.

"Let's press the button," Knarf said. Hanid, "and see what happens."

But when Knarf looked down he saw that there were four or five different buttons. Next to each of the buttons was a name.

The first button said: Raindrops. The second button said: Dewdrops. The third button said: Snowflakes. The fourth button said: Drizzle. And the fifth and last button said: Blizzard.

Which One?

"I wonder which of these buttons he wants us to push," Knarf said to Hanid.

"Pixie O'Fix-it! Which button do you wish us to push?" Hanid called over to Pixie O'Fix-it.

"Number Three!" shouted Pixie O'Fix-it.

Knarf pressed button number three. The water that ran into the machine at one end came

out as snowflakes at the other end!

Knarf and Hanid had a wonderful time filling up the empty bags with snowflakes. Just as an experiment, Knarf pushed the last button, too!

But he forgot to put a bag under at the other end of the machine and the whole Fix-it room was filled with a swirling, whirling, howling blizzard.

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ABOVE: Bails fly when Tom Graveney was run out, stumped by Wally Groot in the fourth day of the first Test match between England and Australia on December 9.

Trevor Bailey refused to run for a quick single off Richie Benaud. The ball was fielded and returned smartly by Neil Harvey.

RIGHT: Tony Lock clean bowled by Ian Meckiff for one in the England's second innings on the fourth day of the first Test match, which Australia won by eight wickets.—UPI Telephotos.

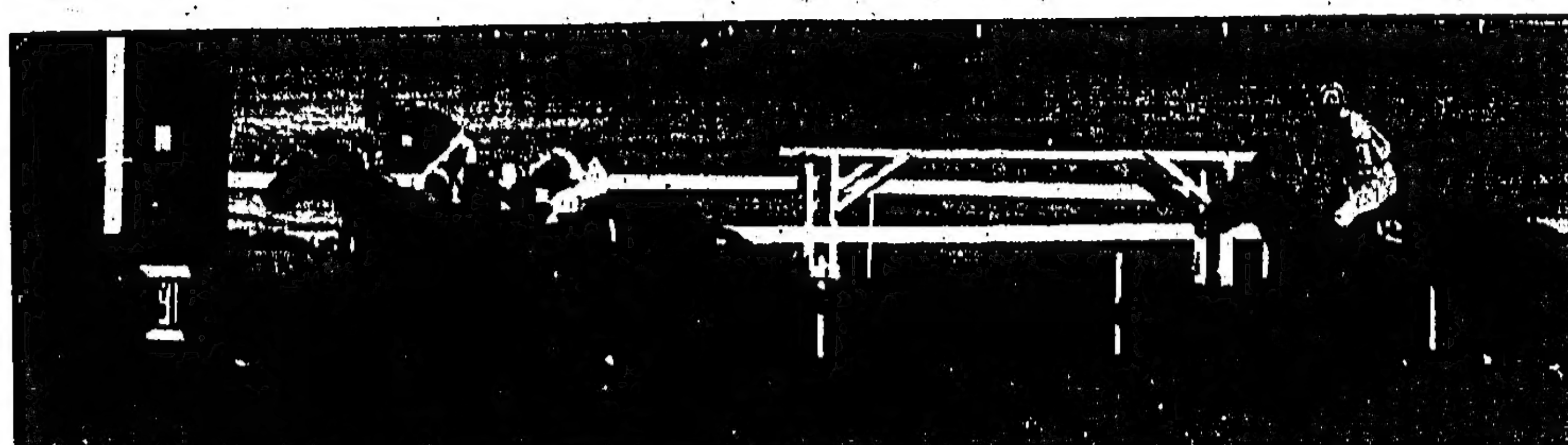


LEFT: Bob Meadows of HMS Albion finishing the 5-mile race amidst applause at the Second Open Athletic Meet organized by the HKAAA at Boundary Street last Sunday. Meadows, who is a newcomer to the Colony, clocked 25 mins 48 seconds. He has already to his credit a 3-mile victory over former well-known local long distance champion Bob Pape whom he beat in the Royal Navy Championships in London last July. — China Mail photo.



RIGHT: Kowloon Motor Bus scoring their first goal in their first division league match against Police last Sunday. The busmen won by four goals to two in what was generally described as one of the roughest games of the season. Police's left-half Tsang Wah was penalised out on the KMB right wing. KMB right-half Chow Shun-hung caught the Police defenders napping with a hard shot and here the ensuing melee is shown during which Tsang Wah put the ball into his own net. — China Mail photo.

SPORTS PICTORIAL



ABOVE UPPER: Caesar (No. 2) with Oskoumoff up winning the Battersea Park Handicap for Class 7 ponies over six furlongs during the second day of the Fifth Race Meeting at Happy Valley last Saturday.

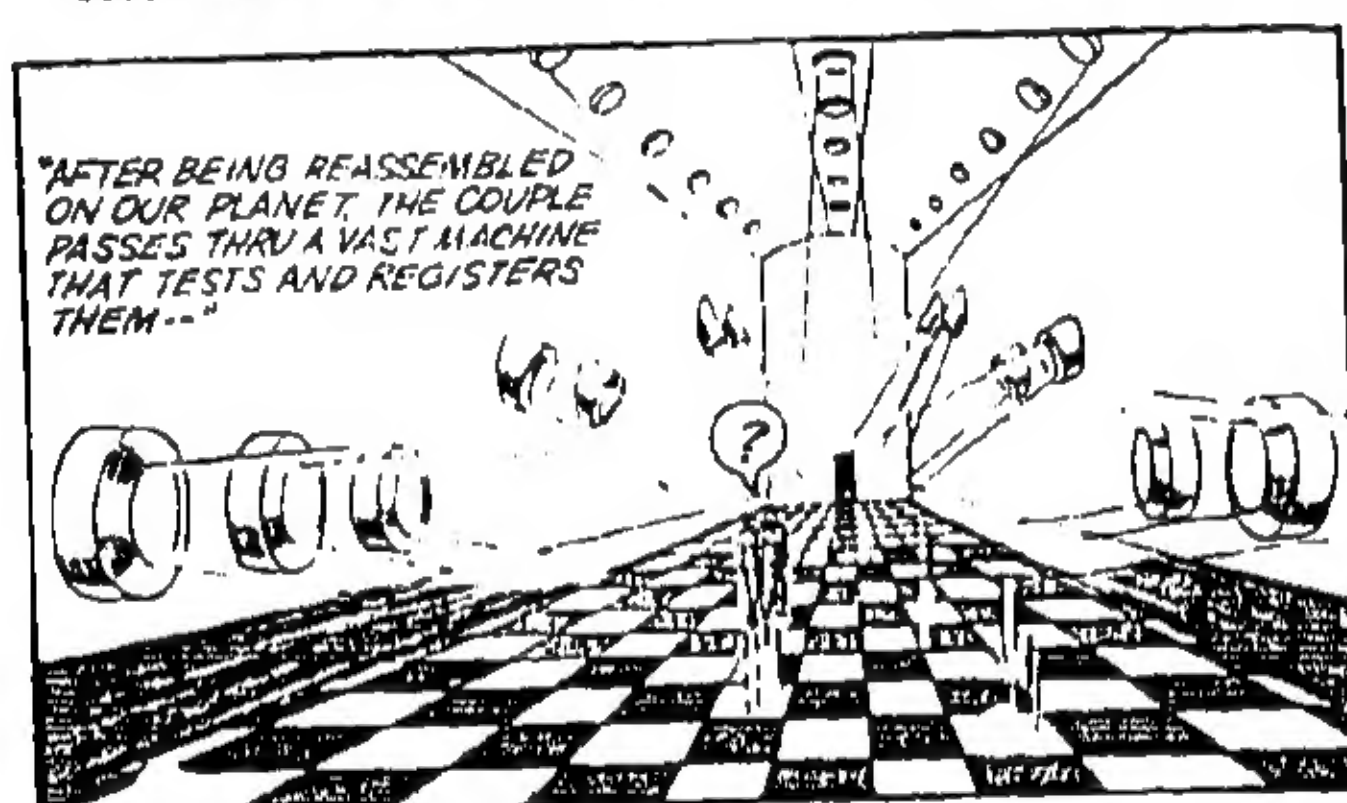
Caesar just noses out the favourite Wase Leader (K. Kwok) at the finish, to pay its backers \$30.30 for a win.

★

ABOVE LOWER: High Noon (U. Kum-lun) provided an early surprise in last Saturday's races when it won the opening race to pay a dividend of \$39.40. Here it (near the rail) is shown fighting out the finish with Crackerjack (No. 1). — China Mail Photos.

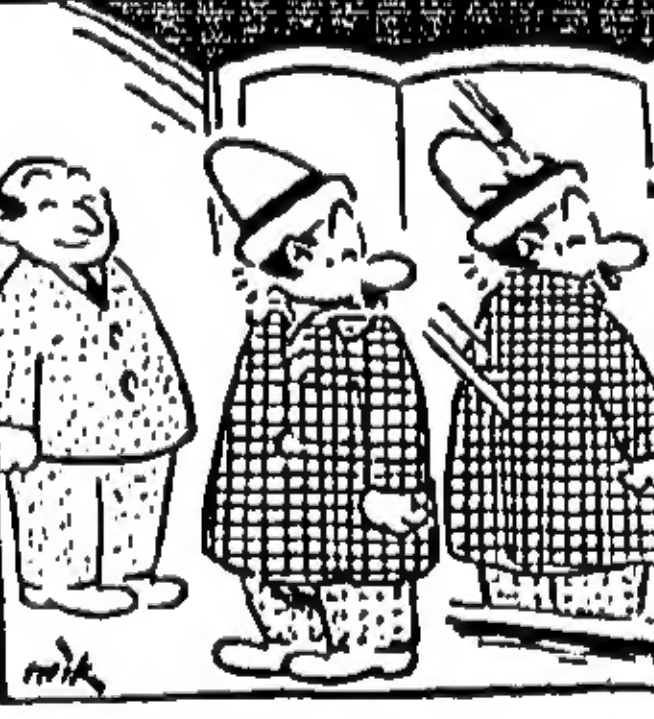
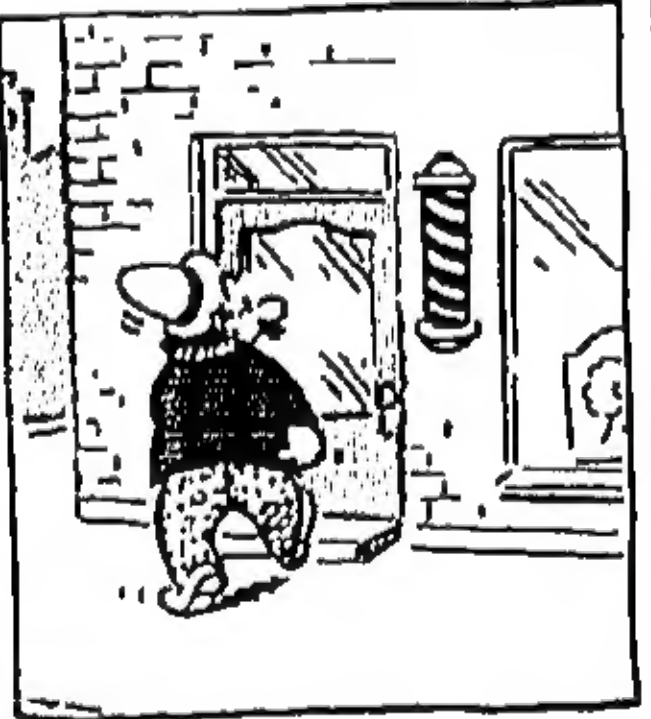
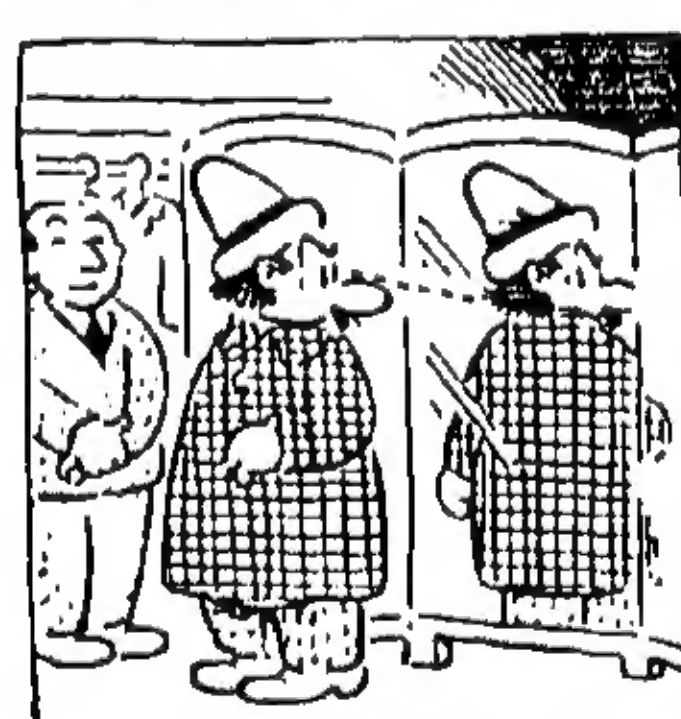
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



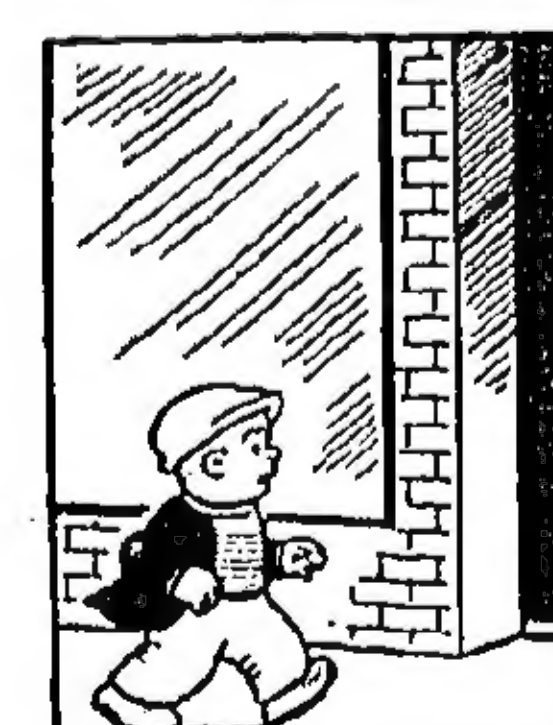
FERD'NAND

By Mik



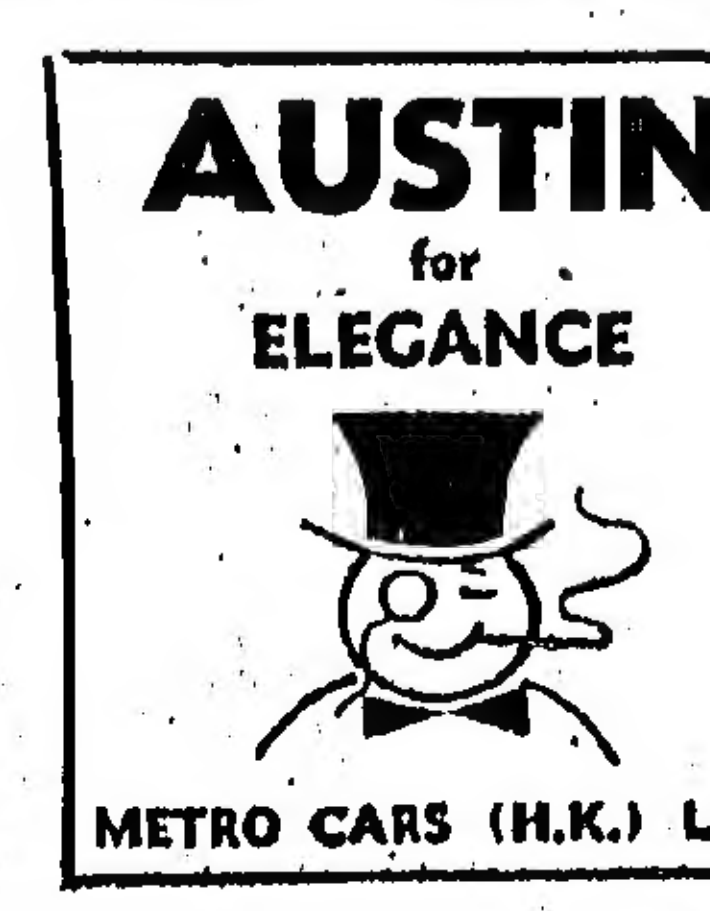
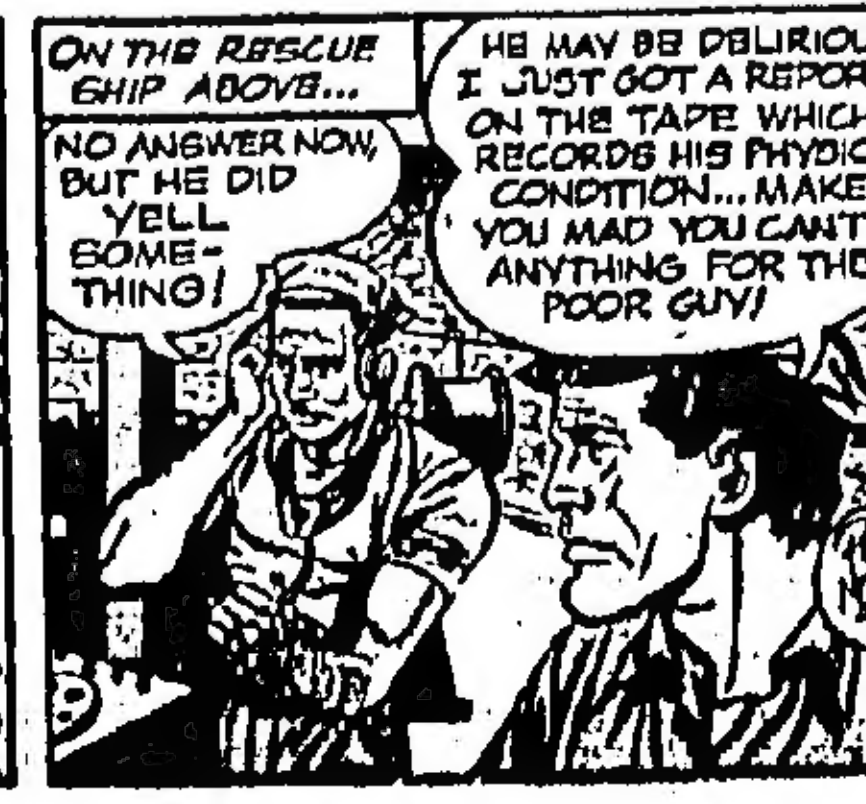
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



BRICK BRADFORD

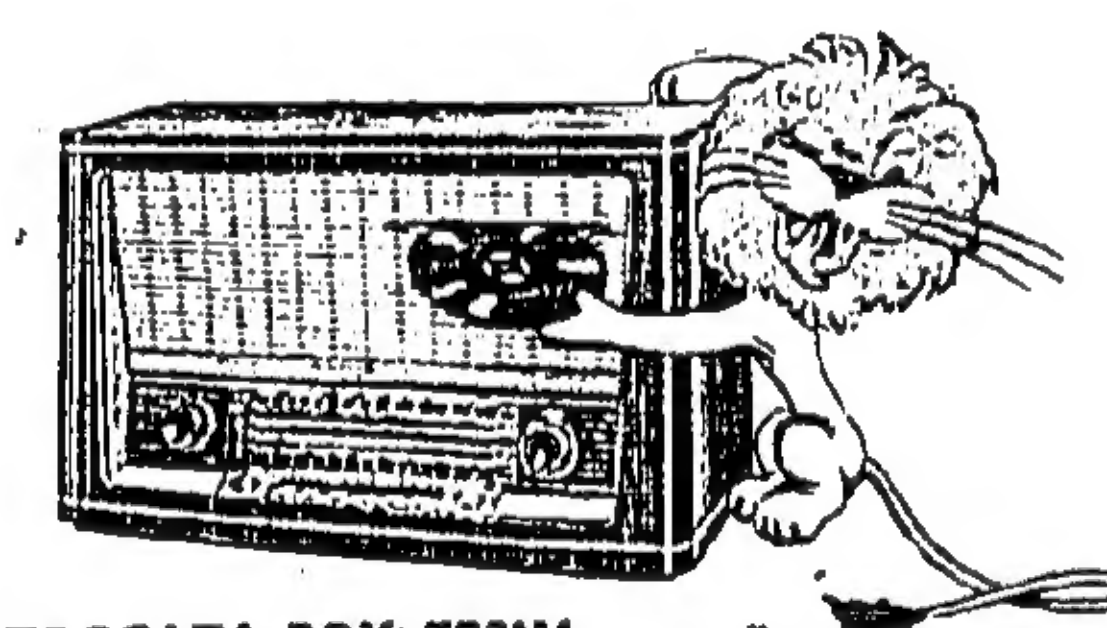
By Paul Norris



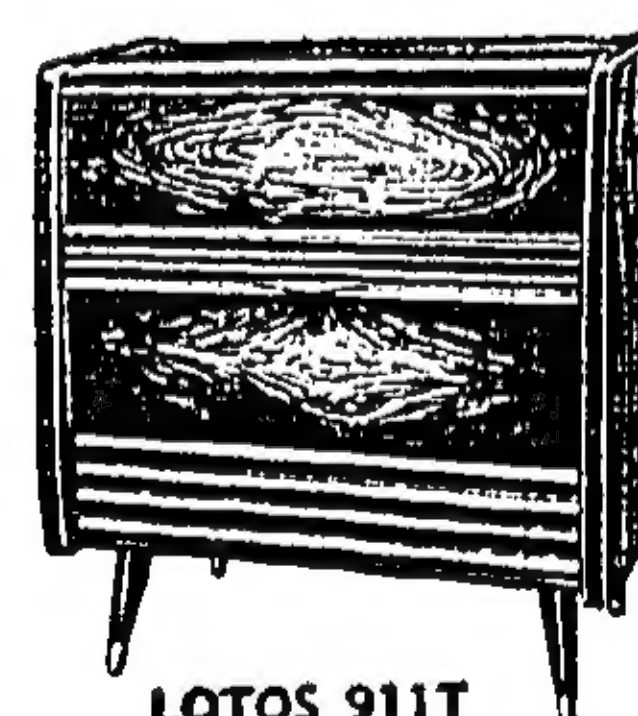
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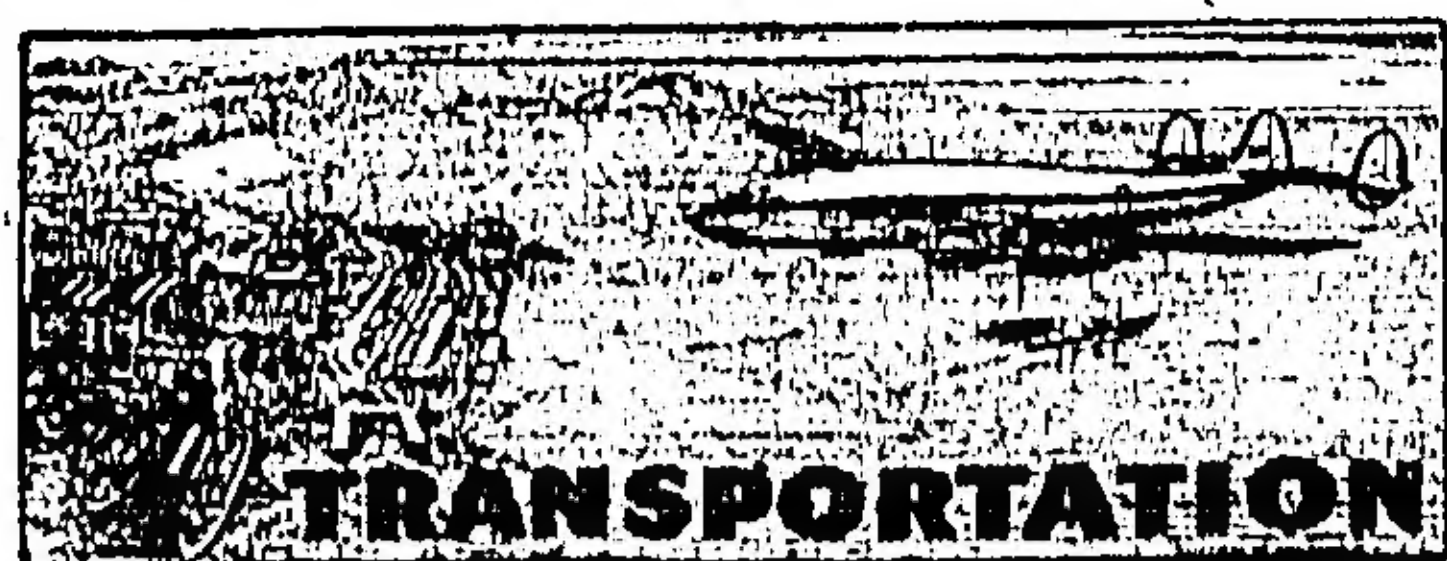
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THE TRAMP STEAMERS ARE BECOMING THE BIG SHIPS

CHANGES in the design and equipment of cargo ships which have developed over the past few years are turning the tramp into a big ship of 12,000 tons or more.

Two factors have conspired to bring about this change. The first is the growing importance of bulk cargoes and the second is a gradual perfection in the design which can be fitted out to handle a cargo ship to speed up turnaround in port which, of course, means rapid discharge and equally rapid loading.

The principal bulk cargoes today are iron ore, bauxite, sugar and grain on the "dry" side; and oil, on the "wet" side, and to a growing extent, liquid petroleum gases.

The current tendency where possible is to build ships such as oil tankers which can handle either dry or wet cargoes.

SPECIALISED
These specialised ships are beginning to eat into the field formerly occupied by the shelter-deck tweendeck ship or between 8,000 and 12,000 tons deadweight with four cargo holds, two or three forward and aft midsides, and machinery amidships.

This is a type of ship which evolved from the old pre-war World War I three-island single deck ship, and which until the special bulk carrier began to occupy a position of increasing importance has carried the majority of the world's bulk cargoes, and on long-term charter in the liner trades a good deal of its dry and packaged cargoes too.

Many ships of this kind are still under construction, and there are shipowners, and above all shipbrokers, especially in Britain, who are of the opinion that this is still a most satisfactory type of ship when compared to other, heavier, specialised, should ever displace.

SUPPOSITION
Are we correct in this supposition? The present trend indicates that this is not the case. The present fleet of cargo carrying ships is divided into two main sections—that concerned with the dry bulk cargoes and general cargoes.

Bulk cargoes can be carried either in shelter-deck tweendeck tankers or in special bulk carriers. Except for the latter type, which are important, the free-lance or tramp ship owner tends to favour those bulk carriers which are equally at home with coal, grain, ore, bauxite, sugar, and other certain circumstances, number of lumber, though these are not strictly speaking bulk cargoes. Owners in Britain who formerly have been interested in shipping from the coastwise point of view, mainly to the coal trade, are now beginning to look further afield for their activities, and they have evolved a type of ship which is in the 10,000 to 12,000 tons deadweight category, a slightly "blow-out" version of the ordinary 4,500-ton ship which they have been using for many years on the coastal trade.

Whether they are right in continuing to build this quarter-deckers of large type may be open to doubt, but that they are doing so is an indication of the fact that they want to get the best of all worlds in all possible bulk trades.

EVOLUTION
Ships designed particularly for the sugar trade, and of the raised quarter-deck type, may well be equally at home with grain or coal, or even perhaps ore; though it is clear that such a ship does not offer the best possible stowage for all cargoes, and that accounts for the present tendency towards the evolution of what has been termed a universal bulk carrier which by a clever arrangement of tanks and 'tween-decks permits optimum loading of any bulk cargo.

The ordinary shelter-deck 'tween-deck, machinery amidships, cargo ship suffers from carrying bulk cargoes from a permanent 'tween-deck; on the other hand this latter is an advantage should the ship be long-term time-chartered in any of the liner trades.

She also is at a disadvantage from the point of view, dimension for dimension, because her machinery is amidships. She is a logical ancestor of the old even-knot, coal-burning, triple-expansion engine, three-island ship of pre-World War I era, which made a lot of money for a lot of shipowners.

The next ten years will see the demise of the shelter-deck 'tween-deck as she is known at present, because all bulk trades will have moved themselves off into special ship type groups, some of which will have special

ANOTHER FIRM JOINS JET RACE

WATCH for a third name in Western intercontinental jet airliners.

It is a famous name in civil aviation—Douglas. This American firm gave the world the DC-3 Dakota—still leading in numbers on the world's airlines—the DC-4 Skymaster, the DC-6 and the DC-7.

Now it is speeding towards the day when its first jet will line up against British de Havilland Comets and the rival American Boeing 707s.

A progress report from California to the seven European airlines which have ordered the new DC-8 jets says that No. 1 has now made 47 test flights. It has flown at up to 600 m.p.h.

No. 2 has just made its first flight, and the third and fourth will be joining the flight test programme this month. Many of the DC-8s for Europe are to have British Rolls-Royce Conway engines.

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Stocks Turned Down On New York Market

New York, Dec. 23.

Stocks turned down with some vigour just before closing time today.

Goodyear was hard with an outside loss of four points. Du Pont fell four points and Texas Co. two points. Losses of more than a point were set by United Aircraft, American Telephone, and National Steel. All these are included in the industrial average group and gains of substantial amounts in General Electric and Westinghouse were insufficient to offset them.

Wide Losers

Special issues had some wide losers too. Zenith Radio fell seven points and declines to two or three points appeared in International Salt, Johnson & Johnson, Coca Cola, Minneapolis & North American, and National Cash Register.

Railroad issues, strong through the afternoon, were being hit as the close approached. Selling developed actively with tickers running late. Earlier in the day rails and utilities showed gains in their averages.

Of the 1,202 issues traded, 382 advanced, 650 declined.

New York Stock Exchange volume was 2,870,000 shares.

New York Stock Exchange bond volume was \$5,000,000.

American Stock Exchange volume was 1,100,000 shares.

Dow-Jones closing averages were:

20 Industrials 306.39
20 rails 101.25
18 utilities 107.09
65 stocks 101.25
40 bonds 101.25
Comm. future price index 148.34

Closing Prices
Allied Chemicals \$92.14
Alcoa 20.18
American Cable & Radio Corp. 49.75
American Cyanamid Co. 49.75

Chicago, Dec. 23.
Grain prices closed weak for most grains today on the Board of Trade.

Liquidation and increased hedge selling anchored prices in low tones, and prevented any sizable advance.

Wheat No. 2, red 195 nom.
Spot 190 1/2
Mar 190 1/2
May 190 1/2
July 190 1/2
Sept 190 1/2
Nov 190 1/2
Dec 190 1/2

Corn No. 2, yellow 110 1/2
Spot 110 1/2
Mar 110 1/2
May 110 1/2
July 110 1/2
Sept 110 1/2
Nov 110 1/2
Dec 110 1/2

Oats 125 1/2
Spot 125 1/2
Mar 125 1/2
May 125 1/2
July 125 1/2
Sept 125 1/2
Nov 125 1/2
Dec 125 1/2

Barley 120 1/2
Spot 120 1/2
Mar 120 1/2
May 120 1/2
July 120 1/2
Sept 120 1/2
Nov 120 1/2
Dec 120 1/2

New York flour 120 1/2
Spot 120 1/2
Mar 120 1/2
May 120 1/2
July 120 1/2
Sept 120 1/2
Nov 120 1/2
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200 lb. sack \$12.00
U.P.I.

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London Closes Irregular

London, Dec. 23.

The stock market closed irregularly higher today on reduced volume with the approach of the holidays.

Glittered securities were quiet but short-dated bonds improved on full support. Oils remained unsettled and after an erratic performance during most of the session finished lower. Shell was down three shillings, while Royal Dutch and Canadian Eagle were also lower. Burmah was unchanged and British Petroleum higher.

MIXED

Foreign bonds were mixed and collar stocks eased.

Gold shares met selective demand and several issues closed higher. Copper stocks were dull.

Industrials were generally firm with several issues showing features. Laminated Steel rose three shillings on good earnings report. Tobacco and selected breweries, stores and textiles were strong spots.

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U.P.I.

London & Wall St. Markets Show Great Confidence

By SYDNEY CAMPBELL

London, Dec. 23.

London and Wall Street stock exchanges continue to display great confidence. At Wall Street's present heights it is harder to achieve still higher peaks, but the market manages to achieve them.

When individual companies result show that they were badly hit by the recession the market as a whole is not hurt. Oils continued to reflect overseas political uncertainties of both the Middle East and the Western Hemisphere, but industrial equities remain strong.

In both Britain and America the strength of consumer demand is taken as a good enough augury for eventual revival in capital goods.

Industrialists were generally firm with several issues showing features. Laminated Steel rose three shillings on good earnings report. Tobacco and selected breweries, stores and textiles were strong spots.

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CHINA MAIL

Page 10

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1958.

SHEAFFER'S
Skrip

NASSER ATTACK ON REDS — A SENSATION

By ALEX JOANNIDES

Cairo, Dec. 23.

President Nasser's attack today on Communists — the first since in 1954 he branded them as "Zionist agents" — created a sensation in foreign diplomatic quarters.

Observers noted that ever since the Soviet arms deal in 1955, although Communism has been suppressed in Egypt, there had been no public criticism of Communists on President Nasser's part.

They viewed the President's speech today in Port Said as a new era in "Nasserist" policy. His branding of the Syrian Communists as enemies of Arab nationalism may not only affect the Communist position in United Arab Republic—where their activity is already limited, as the Communist Party is banned—but throughout the Middle East where they have so far been admitted as the nationalists' uneasy allies.

Aimed At Iraq

Although he specifically referred only to Syrian Communists, observers viewed his attack as being more an after-

effect of the Communist conflict with the nationalists in Iraq. President Nasser's grateful reference in his speech to the Soviet Union's multiple aid to the U.A.R. was regarded by the Syrians as indicative of the President's belief that his attack against Arab Communism would not jeopardise the close and friendly relationship between Cairo and Moscow.

Moscow radio in its Arab language service this evening gave a 75-word summary of President Nasser's speech but made no reference to his attack on Communists.

Radio Baghdad also made no mention of Nasser's attack on Syrian Communists.

The radio quoted, at length, the three passages which dealt with the Arab world's "anti-Zionist struggle".

On The Mend

Paris, Dec. 23. Four Yugoslav physicians given bone marrow grafts at the Curie Foundation here in October after suffering an overdose of irradiation during an atomic accident, have passed the critical stage and are progressively improving, the foundation announced tonight.

MPs Boycott Ghana Parliament

Accra, Dec. 24.

An emergency meeting of Ghana's National Assembly has been called for today following announcement of an almost complete opposition party boycott of Parliament until 40 party members now detained are brought to trial.

No reason for the session was announced.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, is on a night's visit to London. The detainees are alleged to have plotted his assassination.

The Opposition United Party's chairman, Dr. K.A. Busia, announced yesterday his party members would attend only the first meetings of the Assembly, to retain their seats, and then boycott the proceedings until an adjournment.

Abuse

"The abuse to which the Government are putting the Preventive Detention Act by arresting and imprisoning without trial political opponents and Members of Parliament against whom allegations of serious crimes have been made is an outrageous attack on freedom and democracy," he said.

"The parliamentary system which requires the functioning of a government party and an official Opposition cannot function under such an abuse of power."

An Accra Divisional Court hearing will continue today on a challenge to an order signed by Dr. Nkrumah on November 10 for the detention of the 40 Opposition party members and officials now held in two grim, centuries-old fortress prisons here.—Reuter.

Government Appointments Gazetted

The Government Gazette today announced the following appointments, transfers, promotions and postings:

Mr H. M. A. Brishaw to be Assistant Secretary, Colonial Secretariat.

Mr D. C. Barty ceased to be Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry on proceeding on leave.

Mr Charles Frederick Harbert to be Acting Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Miss Williamina Mackay Keys to be a School Mistress, Education Department, on agreement.

Miss May Li Pak ceased to act as Matron, Class II on resumption of duty by Miss C. W. Leadbetter.

Miss Margaret Joan Hughes to be a Nursing Sister on agreement.

Miss Wendy Hussain, Miss Nora Ng, Miss Kitty Pang, Miss Anne Cheung and Miss Helen Ho to be Nursing Sisters.

DOCTORS WARNING ON PARAFFIN

London, Dec. 24.

Liquid paraffin, under suspicion since 1948 as a possible cause of cancer, is today blamed for a certain type of pneumonia in adults, known as oil aspiration pneumonia.

Dr Gilbert, Forbes and Dr Andrew Bradley, of the forensic medicine department, Sheffield University, said in the British Medical Journal that liquid paraffin gains access to the lungs most easily by its use as an ingredient of nasal or oral sprays.

Evidence suggests that, once in the lung, liquid paraffin remains as an inert foreign body for many years, and probably permanently. About 20 per cent of nose drops and sprays is still being manufactured in a medium containing liquid paraffin, and the doctors feel their manufacture in an oily medium should be stopped.—Reuter.

MY YEAR IN RED CHINA

Singapore.

ON a hot June day in 1956, an attractive Chinese woman walked a hundred and three paces across the narrow bridge at Shum-chun and passed quietly from Hongkong into China.

Like many other overseas Chinese, she thought she could build a new life for herself and her child in China. She was aware that China had at last turned her back on a hundred years of humiliations and defeats and that a new dynastic cycle had begun. So, when a Communist official said: "We embrace you into the bosom of the Motherland. There is nothing to fear, for we are like one big happy family," she felt an exhilaration akin to joy.

A year passed. Then she appeared on that narrow bridge again, walking that same hundred and three paces—the other way. Now she was disenchanted and disillusioned, finding an uneasy ambivalence in the knowledge that in the last, regimented world of China she had no place.

Peking Blues

So she sat down and wrote a book about her experiences in China, and entitled it "Peking Blues". Her book will be published in Hongkong early next year and she herself is now in Singapore with her child. Her name is Mrs Liao Sen. She is 28 and a widow.

Mr Liao was born and educated in Singapore. In 1949 she left for Hongkong where she stayed till she went to England with her husband in 1952. She studied for a while in England at the School of Oriental Studies of the University of London. Then in 1956 she decided to return to China.

The book of her experiences deserves to be read, not for its literary style or for its conventional love story, but for its description of what awaits overseas Chinese who return to China expecting the country to conform to all the fanciful notions conjured up by half-remembered stories and volumes translated by Waley or Legge.

Idealism

A common failing among overseas Chinese—born of either idealism or nationalism or oppression or the disabilities of a second class citizenship—is to regard a return to China as a nostrum for all their ills.

They tend to visualise China in terms of the Great Wall and the West Lake, of eccentric scholars and roguish puns, of profoundly and wit, shuttlecocks and kites, courtyards and moon-gates, the taste of hot meat dumplings, the tang of rose petal wine, fortune tellers, cricket lights, the arch of a bamboo, a boy on a buffalo, a maiden's plaintive song.

But such notions are as outdated as the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion. They are perpetuated only by incurable romantics and that strange breed of "professional Chinese" who play the buffoon around Park Avenue penthouses and Kensington drawing-rooms.

Today China is the clenched fist, the smiling portrait of Mao, shouted slogans, production figures, Five-Year Plans, dialectical materialism, political essays, brain-washing, criticism meetings, labour camps, the new puritanism, the annihilation of individualism, the contumely of party cadres, the visits by the security police and the nameless fear that lingers all through the night.

100 Flowers

Mrs Liao visited China during a period of comparative liberalism, when a hundred flowers were allowed to bloom. But even then she found so many aspects of life so utterly intolerable. For example, for a society which aims at being classless, the class distinctions are much more rigid there than on the outside.

"The class distinctions in China are what disgusted me most," Mrs Liao said in an



Mrs Liao Sen

interview at her Tanglin flat. "Right at the top are the party members, and even they are sub-divided. The best seats at plays and operas are reserved for them. The big hotels and places like the International Club are open only to them and to foreigners. After them come the intellectuals, the labour heroes and so on. Each group keeps pretty much to itself and there is very little mixing."

Another distasteful feature of life for Mrs Liao was the lack of freedom. One had to get permits to travel to other parts of the country and even if one wanted to spend a night at a friend's home one had to first register with the district police.

On the fate of overseas Chinese lured back by the bait of free education, Mrs Liao said: "Overseas Chinese are first of all put into special schools to have their minds readjusted. These schools provide a mild form of brain-washing. After political indoctrination the smart ones are given technical training in universities. About ten per cent of the overseas Chinese who return ever get through the university level."

Has To Leave

"Once a student fails in an examination he has to leave to work in a factory, often on night shift. Once he is given such a job, he is supposed to stick to it for life. If he does not like the job, he can quit, but then the government will not help him find another job."

"Some of the overseas Chinese students are really in a pitiful condition. A lot of them are jobless and they have no money because they have been disowned by their families. The government gives them an allowance of 60 cents a day, which is about

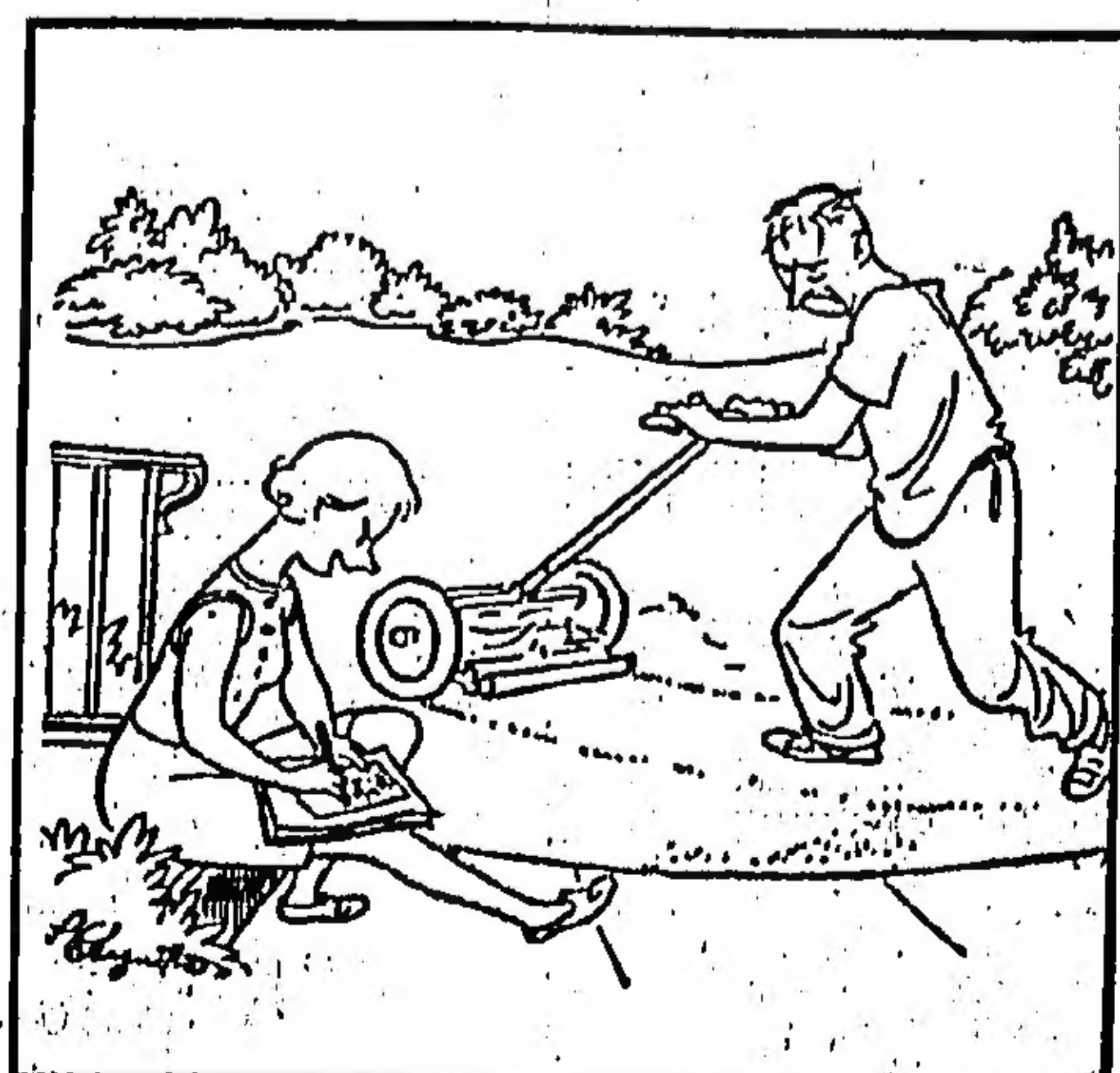
Regret & Pain

And as a parting thought, Mrs Liao sums up her feelings in these words:

"I never think of China without feeling a deep sense of regret and pain. I had felt so different when first I ventured in. I went in with soaring hopes for a bright future, but came out saddened, weary and disillusioned. Yet, I'm glad I discovered for myself what my country is like in reality, not the Utopia of my dreams. I have since asked myself how much loyalty we overseas Chinese owe to our Motherland? "For to us our country is like the promised land where all our youthful hopes can be fulfilled. Now I wonder if it is not by far better and wiser to love and cherish it from afar, for like all idols there are bound to be blemishes when closely inspected."

By DAVID T. K. WONG

This Funny World



"Thirty times back and forth is only 897 yards. Now when you're playing 18 holes of golf—"

From the Files

25 years AGO

From Sydney came a report that the bell of the German cruiser *Emden*, which was sunk by the Australian cruiser *HMAS Sydney* off the Cocos Islands during the First World War, stolen from the Sydney War Museum last April and believed to have been taken back to Germany, was found today by the representative of a leading Australian newspaper.

This is the second time the bell has been stolen and buried in a public park.

The total rainfall recorded during December at the Botanic Gardens was 1.55 inches.

AFTER being detained for a short while, a big consignment of opium passing through Peking from Calgan to Tientsin, was released. It consists of 2,400 cases, of a value of over \$500,000. The consignment has now been sent to Tientsin.

The shipment was in the charge of a man named Li Tze-kwang, and an escort of ten soldiers.

When gendarmes boarded the train to seize the opium, Li protested saying that it was the property of a certain influential person in Charhar and was being sent to another influential person in Tientsin as a present.

Another report states that the influential Charhar person telegraphed to the local authorities saying that the consignment was to be sold in Tientsin and winter clothes were to be purchased for his soldiers with the proceeds. He explained that he would not have had to do this if his troops had been paid regularly. As a result of this explanation, the opium shipment was released.

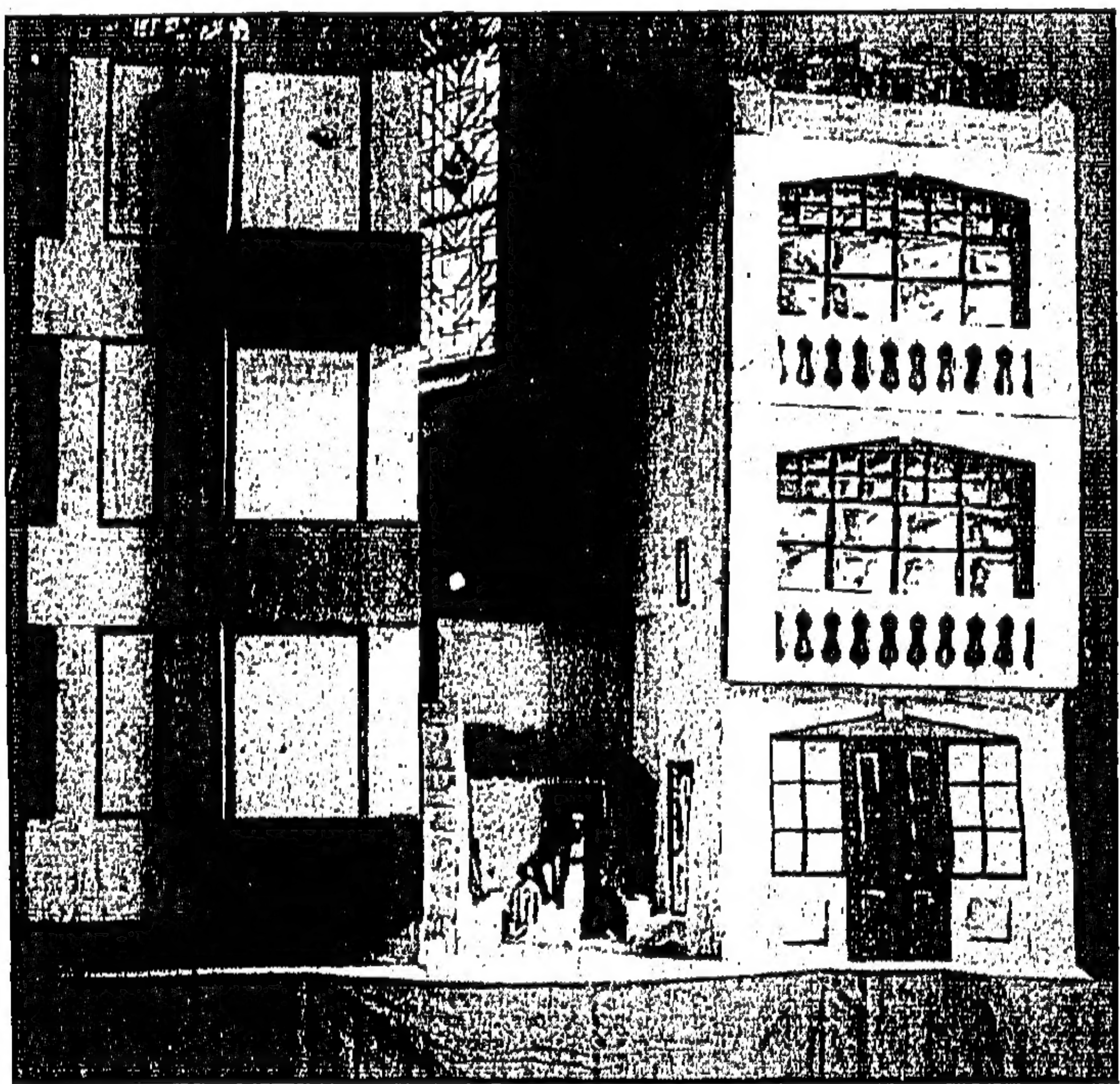
Another record to the East has been established by an Air-Orient mail-plane flying between Marseilles and Saigon. The French airliner, *Emeraude*, making the inaugural flight of a proposed service, left Le Bourget on December 22, with five passengers and a crew of three together with mail. The aircraft arrived in Saigon at 5.30 p.m. on December 29.

IN a letter to the Editor, "Ajax" asks: "Sir, what is one to believe regarding the world situation? In today's issue of the S. C. M. Post, you publish optimistic messages from the world's leaders with the significant exception of His Holiness the Pope, who as leader of a very much international church, is probably better informed of world condition than any of the Foreign Offices. He remains silent."

"I do not want to be an alarmist but allow me to ask, are we prepared for it in Hongkong and is the Empire prepared? I would say No, and base my contention on the just and fair criticism sporadically appearing in the local Press, on the weakness of our fighting forces and last but not least, the utter decay of our mercantile Marine, the very life nerve of our nation in peace and in war."

"I have heard it said that the English are God's chosen people. I do not doubt it for reasons which are only too obvious."

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Above is a photograph of a Hongkong-style Crib, designed and made by the Rev. John Foster, Chaplain of St John's Cathedral. Mr Foster decided that the usual crib scene of Mary, Joseph, the child Jesus, the Wise Men, the Angels and the cattle was inappropriate for Hongkong. So he gave the familiar scene a local angle. Here is the "cattle shed" with Mary, Joseph and the child inside. Flanking it on either side are old and new apartment blocks. On their walls are advertisements for Chinese opera and cinema. The crib is situated in the sub-transcript of the Cathedral.—China Mail Photo.



Our Warmest Greetings to you!

May your Christmas be merry and long remembered! May your New Year be joyous and abound in happiness!

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